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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker.

PRAYER

Bishop Fred T. Simms, Heart of God Ministries, Beckley, West Virginia, offered the following prayer:

Father, bless, we pray You, the leaders of this Nation. Strengthen the courage of the Representatives in Congress—sincere men and women who want to do right, if only they can be sure what is right. Make it plain, Father. Release the same spirit of wisdom and unity that brought these 50 States together to form this great United States of America to fall fresh on this great governing body as they make decisions affecting over 300 million Americans.

Father, at this time we join our hearts, minds, and spirits for our fellow miners and families in West Virginia who have suffered great loss in the midst of tragedy. Out of the depths of our present grief and helplessness we cry unto Thee, praying that Thou will draw near unto us, and let the light of Thy countenance shine upon us during this dark hour of time. In Jesus' name, amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House her approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. GRIFFITH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GRIFFITH led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1749. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the possession or use of cell phones and similar wireless devices by Federal prisoners.

WELCOMING BISHOP FRED T. SIMMS

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to welcome to the House of Representatives our guest chaplain today, Bishop Fred T. Simms, D.D., pastor and founder of the Heart of God Ministries in my hometown of Beckley, West Virginia.

It is an honor to have such a distinguished West Virginian here with us today, and it is particularly fitting to have Bishop Simms join us in offering the morning prayer on behalf of our Congress and our Nation on this somber day. Today we will act on a congressional resolution honoring the courageous miners who lost their lives in the tragic explosion at the Upper Big Branch Mine and recognize the heroic actions of the rescue teams who also risked life and limb to search for the missing miners.

Bishop Simms was called to the ministry and preached his first message in December, 1977. Since that time, Bishop Simms has continued his Biblical studies through Aeon Bible College and the Institute of Biblical Studies in Lynchburg, Virginia. He received his doctorate of divinity degree from

the St. Thomas Christian College in 2008. He has received numerous awards for his community service, which includes the Citizen of the Year award from the Mountain State Bar Association, Mountain State University's School of Leadership and Professional Development's Living Leadership award, and recognized by the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Holiday Commission of the State of West Virginia with its "Sharing of Self" award.

Bishop Simms, one of eight children born to George Simms and Audrey Simms Totten, is married to Marilyn Staples Simms, and the father of five daughters and 11 grandchildren. His greatest strength perhaps may be his humbleness of heart and his ability to become less, so that God gets all the glory. He teaches his congregation by example, as he lives what he preaches.

Bishop Simms' two mottos are, "It's not about Fred T., but about God," and "Come on, let's have church."

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to honor Bishop Fred Simms today, and proud that he gave our invocation.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois). The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings or other audible conversation is in violation of the rules of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois). The Chair will entertain up to 15 further 1-minute requests from each side of the aisle.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H2507

TAX DAY TAX BREAKS

(Mrs. DAHLKEMPER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. DAHLKEMPER. Mr. Speaker, Tax Day is tomorrow, and thanks to the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act middle class families in western Pennsylvania and throughout the country are seeing big tax returns this year. The Recovery Act provided tax cuts for 99 percent of working Pennsylvanians and resulted in a 10 percent increase in the average tax refund this year. That's a big help to families in my district who are working hard to pay their bills.

The Recovery Act extended the earned income tax credit, the child tax credit, and college tax credits for families and students. First-time homebuyers benefit from a tax credit of up to \$8,000, and businesses can write off new equipment purchases and increase bonus depreciation. Americans are saving an estimated \$222 billion in taxes this year thanks to the Recovery Act.

I am proud that through the work we have been doing here in Congress we have lowered the tax burden for my hardworking constituents.

AND THE BORDER WAR GOES ON

(Mr. POE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. POE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the violence at our southern border with Mexico has escalated, resulting in murders, kidnappings, old west shootouts, Mexican military helicopter intrusions into the U.S., and criminal cartels cloning Border Patrol vehicles to smuggle the drugs.

An Arizona rancher was murdered at the border recently on his ranch. A California border agent was assassinated just a few months ago. In El Paso, Texas, our Border Patrol agents are being targeted by the Azteca hit men. These outlaws protect shipments of dope for the Juarez drug cartel.

Now these Mexican criminal cartels have put a \$250,000 bounty on our Border Patrol agents. In response, our Border Patrol agents have been told to wear bulletproof vests. Why do we wait for more tragedy before more boots are put on the ground? Our law enforcement agents need help. Doesn't Washington know that the border has become a violent war zone? National Guard troops should be deployed to the border immediately to protect us from the narcoterrorists.

And that's just the way it is.

CEREMONY HONORING VICTIMS RIGHTS WEEK

(Mr. COSTA asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the importance of National

Crime Victims' Rights Week, which occurs from April 18 to April 24. As founders and co-chairs of the Congressional Victims' Rights Caucus, Congressman Ted Poe and I this evening are hosting the annual Victims' Rights Caucus Awards ceremony, honoring six individuals from around the country for their outstanding accomplishments in the field of victims services and victim advocacy.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week helps us all to celebrate and acknowledge the victim service providers and the criminal justice professionals who every day provide critical assistance to the victims of crimes. They do it on a 24-7 basis.

Crime victims are our sons, daughters, brothers, sisters, parents, and our friends. They are struggling to survive in the aftermath of a crime, and they deserve services and support to help them cope.

SUPPORT FOR NASA

(Mr. GRIFFITH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. GRIFFITH. Mr. Speaker, it is no coincidence that we have the most advanced manned space flight program on earth, attracting and inspiring the world's greatest minds. Our space program is a matter of great national pride and of great national security importance.

We are profoundly disappointed in the lack of vision coming from the administration, sending a message to our scientific community that indicates a lack of understanding and commitment. This matter goes to the very essence of what makes America the greatest country on earth.

Lowering expectations for manned space flight is not compatible with the culture of America. Dr. Holdren's recent statement that we can't expect to be number one in everything indefinitely is shockingly, shockingly uninspiring. However, if we do not strive to maintain our primacy in manned space flight, we will be well on our way to mediocrity.

I and the entire NASA Caucus will do everything in our power to fund Constellation with a budget that is respectful of the investments we have made in our space program.

RECENT TAX CUTS

(Mr. COHEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, today is Tax Day, of course, and that is somewhat of a dreaded day in many people's minds. But the fact is in the past year we have had more tax cuts than almost any time in our Nation's history. But with President Obama and this Congress, they have been directed to the lower working class people, the lower income people, and not the top 2 or 3

percent, as happened during the Bush administration.

President Obama stood at the podium behind me in his State of the Union address and said, "Now let me repeat, we cut taxes. We cut taxes for 95 percent of working families. We cut taxes for small businesses. We cut taxes for first-time homebuyers. We cut taxes for parents trying to care for their children. We cut taxes for 8 million Americans paying for college. We put \$300 billion worth of tax cuts into people's pockets so there was demand and businesses had customers." I am proud to have supported the President in these measures.

A third of the stimulus package, the ARRA, was tax cuts. It is something the American people don't realize because of the false rhetoric that has been spread throughout this country. I appreciate the work of this Congress and President Obama, and I thank him for his leadership.

NEWSWEEK SHOULD REPORT FACTS ON ECONOMY

(Mr. SMITH of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, to my left is the Media Fairness Caucus' Newsweek Wall of Shame, a collection of the magazine's very biased cover articles. Previous covers have featured Vice President Al Gore with the caption, "The Thinking Man's Thinking Man"; President Obama with the caption, "Yes, He Can"; and Vice President JOE BIDEN, "A Vice President to be Reckoned With." This week's cover reads, "America's Back! The Remarkable Tale of our Economic Turn-around".

Apparently Newsweek hasn't heard that the unemployment rate remains close to 10 percent, with 16 million Americans unemployed, that personal income has fallen over 3 percent since President Obama took office, and that the President's budget doubles the national debt in 5 years and triples it in 10.

The only way to bring America back is to reverse the administration's policies of higher taxes, runaway spending, government takeovers, and record debt. Newsweek should report the facts on the economy, not provide free and false advertising for the Obama administration.

□ 1015

CANCELING THE CONSTELLATION PROGRAM

(Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the President's budget proposal to cancel our human space flight program. It's under the Constellation Program, which was authorized both by

Democrat and Republican Congresses respectively, that NASA is currently developing new launch vehicles capable of traveling to the moon, Mars, and other destinations.

Not only does canceling the Constellation Program jeopardize America's leadership role in human space exploration, but it will have a detrimental effect on our economy, projecting job losses of 30,000 nationally.

Given our current economic downturn, we can't take the possibility of losing these jobs lightly. Our government has already invested literally years and billions of dollars in this program. We should build on these investments and not abandon them, especially considering the private sector will not be able to build a better, faster, cheaper rocket before the Constellation Program is slated to be finished because the technologies NASA proposed to use do not exist yet, nor has any destination been chosen.

Constellation is our only hope to close the current 5-year gap in U.S. access to space, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in opposition to the proposal to close Constellation.

COMMENDING MEDCAMPS

(Mr. FLEMING asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FLEMING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend MedCamps for 23 years of outstanding service in the State of Louisiana.

Founded in 1987, MedCamps of Louisiana provides a summer camp experience to children with physical and mental disabilities such as spina bifida, cerebral palsy, autism, and epilepsy. Each week, free of charge, children come from across Louisiana to participate in a week-long, fun-filled camping experience at Camp Alabama in my district. Children participate in activities such as fishing, arts, crafts, nature hikes, canoeing, and many others. As a family physician for over 30 years, I know firsthand the important role that organizations such as MedCamps play in the lives of children with disabilities.

I congratulate MedCamps on their outstanding service to our State and wish them all the best as they continue to serve the children of Louisiana.

FEDERAL TAXES

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, Federal taxes are very considerably lower by every measure since Obama became President. That's a quote from President Reagan's domestic policy adviser, Bruce Bartlett.

Congress and the President have enacted an array of tax cuts which are crucial for efforts to turn the economy around. Instead of a return to tax cuts

focused only on the wealthy, these tax cuts are broad based and touch many aspects of American life, from investing in a small business, to buying a home or making it energy efficient, to sending your children to college, to buying a car. These tax cuts are helping families and businesses across the country and injecting consumer demand in the economy and spurring business activity, investments, and job creation.

All told, Congress has enacted over \$800 billion in tax cuts, including tax cuts hitting 95 percent of American families in the Recovery Act. Building on the Recovery Act's 25 tax cuts, we have enacted job-creating tax incentives to spur hiring for out-of-work Americans, strengthening small business and tax credits, accelerating write-offs to help grow this economy out of this deep economic hole.

SUPPORTING FUNDING FOR THE CONSTELLATION PROGRAM

(Mr. ADERHOLT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, since the President announced his budget on February 1, disapproval of a plan to drastically change the current NASA human space exploration mission has been almost unanimous on both sides of the aisle. The President proposes to add \$6 billion to NASA's budget for the next 5 years, but over those first 4 years the exploration account decreases by \$5.7 billion.

Human space flight and exploration beyond Earth is the very reason that NASA was put into existence. The President's plan moves funds to unproven proposals and costs the government \$2.5 billion to shut down the Constellation Program. Ares I and Ares V overlap technologies, and there is zero budget proof that the administration's new plan will give us those capabilities with less money.

The innovative scientists and employees at the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, have done a great job in leading space technology in the world.

Mr. Speaker, when the President speaks tomorrow at the Kennedy Space Center, both Democrat and Republican Members hope that he will make a commitment to properly fund the Constellation Program.

AMERICAN RECOVERY AND REINVESTMENT ACT

(Mr. SCHAUER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHAUER. Mr. Speaker, while many are quick to criticize the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the truth is that last month our economy created 162,000 jobs. But, of course, we have got a long way to go to get everyone back to work.

Since tomorrow is Tax Day, I wanted my constituents to know one of the reasons our economy is getting stronger is record tax cuts in the stimulus for middle-class families. Ninety-five percent of workers are receiving the Making Work Pay tax credit of up to \$400 per worker, \$800 per family. Expansion of the child tax credit has helped families of more than 16 million children. Four million more students are attending college as a result of the new \$2,500 tax credit; and tax credits and deductions are helping families stimulate the economy through purchases of homes, cars, trucks, and mobile homes.

As families file their taxes and get their refunds, I want them to understand that these benefits didn't happen by accident. They were the result of a strategy that I supported and Democrats supported, cutting taxes for middle-class families.

TAXES

(Mr. SMITH of Nebraska asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is Tax Day, a deadline dreaded by millions of Americans currently finishing up their tax returns.

Congress owes it to the American taxpayer to act in a fiscally responsible way. Unfortunately, this Congress has not lived up to this burden. At a time when 15 million American remain unemployed and many more are struggling to make ends meet, this administration and Democratic Congress continue to push through measures which increase taxes and add to government spending, which is already out of control. Strong-arm tactics and economic sleight of hand should not be used to jam through legislation which will impact the life of every American.

The solution is not taking more money from the American people. The answer is fiscal discipline in Washington and tax relief for working Americans. We can't tax and spend our way back to a growing economy, and we owe the American taxpayer better.

POLISH PLANE CRASH

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to express my sincere condolences to the people of Poland as they mourn the death of President Lech Kaczynski and his wife, Maria, and to the families and friends of the other 94 men and women who lost their lives in Saturday's airplane crash near Russia's Katyn Forest.

Chicago is the second largest Polish city in the world, second only to Warsaw, and among those killed was Wojciech Seweryn, a Chicago sculptor who emigrated from Poland over three decades ago. Seweryn's father was one

of over 20,000 Poles killed in the Soviet Union in the Katyn Forest in 1940. He was traveling with the Polish President to mark the 70th anniversary of the massacre.

I join with Chicago's vibrant Polish American community and with Poland's friends around the world in mourning the loss of the 96 men and women who lost their lives on Saturday.

CONSTELLATION FISCAL YEAR 2011 BUDGET PROPOSAL

(Mr. CAO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CAO. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that the President's budget proposal for fiscal year 2011 recommends canceling NASA's Constellation Space Program. In agreement with Neil Armstrong, I am very concerned this proposal will leave our Nation with no means of transporting our astronauts to and from the International Space Station and could set the U.S. space program back decades.

To this day, we enjoy countless practical benefits from Apollo technology in things that affect our everyday lives, such as improved weather forecasting, which is vitally important to those of us who live in Louisiana and on the gulf coast.

The Michoud Assembly Facility in my district was slated to build components of the Constellation Program. Michoud now faces the prospect of losing thousands of high-skilled jobs. This world-class manufacturing facility has been used to build the Saturn rockets for Apollo and the main fuel tanks for the Space Shuttle, among other notable achievements. If the President's proposal is adopted, we will lose all that experience and manufacturing know-how, along with 9 billion tax dollars already spent developing the Constellation Program.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would ask Members to please heed the gavel.

AMERICANS AND THEIR FIRST AMENDMENT RIGHTS

(Mr. BARTON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BARTON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, the First Amendment gives the American people the right to petition the Congress for redress of grievances and to express freedom of speech.

Several weeks ago, the chairman of the committee that I serve as a ranking member on, Energy and Commerce, Chairman HENRY WAXMAN, sent a letter to several U.S. corporations for having the temerity to express their dis-

pleasure with the health care bill and to inform their employees and stockholders of the consequences of that piece of legislation. He has opened an investigation into those companies, and we have a hearing next week.

Two days ago, Chairman WAXMAN sent a letter to the American Farm Bureau, opening an investigation into their activities expressing their displeasure with the EPA endangerment finding and the pending cap and trade legislation in the United States Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I am very concerned when one of the premier committee chairmen of our great House of Representatives appears to be using his power to intimidate Americans from expressing their First Amendment rights to petition the Congress for redress of grievances. I think that's a sad state of affairs, and I think that is something that maybe should be investigated.

TAX RELIEF FOR MIDDLE-CLASS FAMILIES

(Ms. TITUS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Speaker, since coming to Congress, I have kept my promise to provide tax relief to middle-class families and small businesses in my district; and I am proud to report that on Tax Day millions of Americans will pay less in taxes and keep more of their hard-earned money in their own pockets, where it belongs.

In the past year, Congress has enacted over \$800 billion in tax cuts, including the largest package of tax cuts in history in the Recovery Act, leading Reagan's adviser Bruce Bartlett to say that Federal taxes are very considerably lower by every measure since Obama became President.

A recent report by Citizens for Tax Justice has found that, for 2009, 98 percent of working families and individuals in Nevada benefited from at least one of the tax cuts in the Recovery Act, saving an average of \$841. For folks in my district struggling to make ends meet, \$841 could be a mortgage payment that helps them avoid foreclosure and could make a real difference in their lives.

□ 1030

INTERNET GAMBLING

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, every day, dozens of Web sites entice Web surfers to bet online with free software offers. Online poker sites advertise openly on TV. Stores carry books on how to get rich by gambling online. The only problem is that online gambling is illegal. That is why Congress passed the

unlawful Internet Gambling Enforcement Act of 2006, to provide the necessary tools and mechanisms to effectively enforce the law.

This year, Americans will send billions of dollars to offshore, unregulated, online casinos. The Justice Department has warned that many of these sites are fronts for money laundering, drug trafficking, and even terrorist financing.

At its core, the law is about protecting American families from addiction, bankruptcy, and crime. All you need is a computer, a credit card, and Internet access, and with that, players are able to play 24 hours a day from the privacy of their homes. Real lives, including those of minor children, are being affected by illegal online gambling, and it's time that this administration enforce the law on this issue.

TAX CUT FOR AMERICA AND THE ECONOMIC RECOVERY ACT

(Mr. PAYNE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, today I commend my colleagues and President Obama for working diligently to enact a variety of tax cuts totaling \$800 billion. These tax cuts are broad based and touch on many aspects of American life, from investing in small businesses, to buying a home, to sending your children to college, to buying a car.

I believe that tax cuts are helping American families and businesses across the country and injecting consumer demand into the economy and spurring business investment and job creation.

The Recovery Act provides immediate tax relief to 95 percent of American workers and their families. The Making Work Pay tax credit provides a tax credit of up to \$400 for working individuals and up to \$800 for couples filing jointly. This tax credit helps over 240,000 families in my congressional district.

In addition, the first-time home buyers tax credit was increased to \$8,000. An estimated 35,000 households in New Jersey have taken advantage of the tax credit. So I ask to keep America moving in the right direction.

FUNDING THE CONSTELLATION PROGRAM

(Mr. BISHOP of Utah asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the President moves to Florida to salvage or to attempt to salvage a deteriorating political situation caused by accepting NASA Deputy Director Garver's poor decision to cancel Constellation.

Constellation consists at least of two parts: the Orion capsule for the astronauts designed to be 10 times safer

than the space shuttle, and the Aries rocket to send into space. But the alleged savings are more than offset by unintended consequences, because the industrial base that builds the rocket to put people towards the moon also builds the rockets to shoot down incoming missiles from North Korea, Iran, and other bad guys. And if you take the space component away, the defense side costs doubles, triples, maybe even more. And the Augustine report, which this administration is not following, noted this potential industrial-based problem, but NASA either refused to pay attention or chose to ignore the warning.

Regardless, the solution to escalating defense costs and to maintaining the dominance in space will be dependent upon fully funding the Constellation program. And, Mr. President, anything less than that is totally unacceptable.

ALICE IN WONDERLAND

(Mr. YARMUTH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, "Alice in Wonderland" is in American theaters now, but not even my fellow Kentuckian Johnny Depp could argue that down is up when we're talking about Federal taxes.

As you've heard this morning, even President Reagan's domestic policy adviser has said that taxes are considerably lower by every measure since President Obama became President.

This Congress has done an incredible job in lowering taxes for the American people. This year, the average refund for working families will be \$3,000, which is a 10 percent increase over last year. We are taking less and less out of the American working family's paycheck. In fact, the Federal taxes as a percentage of the national economy is at its lowest rate in nearly two generations.

No, only in a fantasy world like "Alice in Wonderland" could you claim that this Congress has not done a great job in lowering taxes for the American public, and we will continue to make sure that American families have the best standard of living we can possibly create.

DUBOIS AREA MIDDLE SCHOOL LEVEL OF EXCELLENCE

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I draw your attention today to the DuBois Area Middle School and its outstanding level of excellence. It has been awarded, for the second time, the designation of the Pennsylvania Don Eichhorn Schools: Schools to Watch program.

The National Forum sponsors this program, and schools are chosen for the honor of achieving academic excel-

lence based on the rigorous 37 criteria established by the National Forum to Accelerate Middle-Grades Reform. They must be academically excellent, developmentally responsive, and socially equitable.

The school is one of 15 in the State and only 200 nationally ever to be honored as a School to Watch. It is the first school in the State to receive a redesignation for 2010 to 2013, and it first achieved the honor in 2007.

The National Forum looks at these schools as part of the effort to identify and learn from high-performing middle schools, and to have the Schools to Watch serve as resources for other schools. There are 18 States participating in the program.

To achieve this award, high-performing schools establish norms, structures, and organizational arrangements to support and sustain their path towards excellence. They have a sense of purpose that drives every facet of practice and decisionmaking.

And I want to congratulate Principal Mike Newman and the teachers, students, personnel, and parents that are responsible for this fine school.

LET'S PUT EVERY OPTION ON THE TABLE FOR BORDER SAFETY

(Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from a trip to Arizona's border, and I thank the men and women at Customs and Border Protection for allowing me an inside look into their operations.

One the most striking things I saw is the toll that violence has taken on our border communities, and tensions are high. As the cartels become desperate to keep smuggling routes open, our border agents and their vehicles are hit with rocks, shot at, and assaulted on a nightly basis.

I am convinced that our border personnel need more equipment and manpower to prevent the violence and keep Americans safe. There is no silver bullet for fixing our border. A solution will require a comprehensive approach to security. We must put every option on the table, including the use of the National Guard.

TAX RELIEF FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

(Mr. PERLMUTTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, President Bush left this country with a \$1.3 trillion debt when President Obama came into office a year ago, and the economy was in free fall.

One of the things that was done over the course of the last year was to provide this country and working Americans with tax cuts across the board, \$800 billion in tax cuts, greatest tax cut for working Americans at any time in our history.

Now, the Republicans are complaining about everything under the sun, but they're not complaining about those tax cuts because they know they're real, whether it's earned income tax credits, college tax credits, accelerated depreciation for small businesses, net operating loss carryforwards all across the board. To this point, in Colorado, the average Coloradan receives \$1,096 in tax cuts this year above what they got before. That's to get this country back on track, not leave it in a financial disaster, as President Bush did.

We are moving in a new direction, and tax cuts are some of the things we're using to get this country back on track.

DON'T RETREAT FROM THE SPACE RACE

(Mr. SCALISE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, President Obama will be speaking this week at the Kennedy Space Center. And while the President's budget cancels the Constellation program, it also jeopardizes NASA's Michoud facility, which is the premiere manufacturing facility with the unique capabilities and skilled workforce that can't just be rebuilt again once it's wound down.

The United States should not retreat from the space race. It not only threatens our national security, but it also makes us beholden to foreign countries. In fact, just last week a Japanese newspaper said, "Once the leader in space development, the United States' space exploration policies are now drifting aimlessly." And they later went on to note that the clear winner from this retreat will be Russia.

Now, we should not cede our space exploration superiority to countries like Russia or anybody else. It jeopardizes our national security. It's a bad policy. The President needs to reconsider.

TAX RELIEF FOR THE MIDDLE CLASS

(Mr. WALZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WALZ. Mr. Speaker, last week I had the opportunity to travel around my southern Minnesota district talking to local business owners on the best ways to grow and revitalize our economy. Businesses, working families, including the Mayo Clinic centered in my district, talked about the improvements to the health care system was a good first step in moving that. They also explained to me that the policies on tax relief that you heard here help.

Now be very clear about this. If you think it's a game of he said, he said and back and forth and the pundits on TV can tell one way to think, this is a

very simple proposition. This Congress has cut taxes for the middle class more than any Congress in history.

Go do your own taxes, compare them side by side, apples to apples, and you'll see that's true. What that means is 98 percent of southern Minnesota has benefited from the working class tax cuts.

Families and students are eligible for up to \$2,500 in tax savings. First-time home buyers got \$8,000 to buy their homes—others, 6,500—revitalizing the housing market.

Taxpayers are eligible for making their homes energy efficient and growing the renewable economy. By enacting these job-saving incentives, small local businesses can grow and expand and inject consumer demand in the economy. Those are facts, not political myth.

WHO ARE YOU GOING TO BELIEVE?

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, you know, Groucho Marx said years ago, Who are you going to believe, me or your own eyes?

I just have to wonder, Mr. Speaker, about the American people looking in this morning to hear Democrats talking about having cut taxes more than any other Congress in history.

Let me see if we can do this. They passed a budget with record taxes and spending, will add \$1 trillion to the national debt in the next 10 years. They passed a national energy tax called the cap-and-trade that will cause utility rates to go up on small businesses and family farms and businesses across this country by hundreds of billions of dollars. And we just passed ObamaCare with \$600 billion of tax increases. So now they're standing in front of the American people on the day before Tax Day, on the day before tens of millions of Americans are going to take to the street and say enough is enough, and expect you to believe that they've been cutting taxes.

Well, I think the American people know better. I think the American people know what we really need here in Washington, DC, is less talk and more action. Let's cut taxes across the board for working families, small businesses, and family farms. Get government under control. Get government out of the way. This economy will come roaring back.

□ 1045

CONSTELLATION

(Mr. OLSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. OLSON. Mr. Speaker, before I left for the Easter district work period, the Space and Aeronautics Sub-

committee held a hearing on the proposed changes to NASA's exploration program. The administration is advocating an extreme change by canceling the Constellation Program, which I feel would be a mistake especially since the Constellation Program has passed their preliminary design review, a significant technological milestone.

Back in 2008, the media portrayed thrust oscillation as a "serious concern," but the program design review, the team spent about a minute on the issue of thrust oscillation. Why? Because the problem had been solved.

To me, this is just another indication of why cancellation would be a mistake. It wouldn't just be throwing money, money already spent, \$9 billion, hardware already built, a workforce already in place, but a process in standard of doing business and fixing problems that NASA has developed for over 50 years.

America has been the leader in human space flight for half a century, and this administration's budget proposal puts that at risk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote incurs objection under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later.

HAITI DEBT RELIEF AND EARTHQUAKE RECOVERY ACT OF 2010

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill (H.R. 4573) to direct the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Directors at the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other multilateral development institutions to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to cancel immediately and completely Haiti's debts to such institutions, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the Senate amendments is as follows:

Senate amendments:

On page 3, line 4, after "provision" insert: "*before February 1, 2015*,".

On page 3, lines 18 and 19, strike "relief" and all that follows through "Haiti." and insert: "*relief and debt service relief for Haiti and, before February 1, 2015, to provide grants for Haiti*,".

On page 4, line 7, after "Haiti's future" insert: "*and future generations*,".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I would like to thank the majority leader for bringing this bill to the floor promptly following its passage in the Senate, and I thank my colleagues on the Financial Services Committee, especially Chairman BARNEY FRANK, Ranking Member SPENCER BACHUS, and Subcommittee Chairman GREGORY MEEKS, for their support for this bill. I also thank my senior legislative assistant, Kathleen Sengstock, and the Financial Services Committee's senior professional staff member, Daniel McGlinchey, for their work on this bill.

I first introduced this bill after the terrible earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12. I have visited Haiti twice since the earthquake, and I have seen the widespread devastation it caused. According to the U.S. Agency for International Development, that is USAID, 230,000 people were killed and 1.3 million people were displaced from their homes. There is a desperate need for clean water, food, shelter, and basic sanitation. Three million people, one-third of the country's population, were affected by the quake.

According to the U.S. Treasury Department, as of March 1, Haiti owed \$828 million to multilateral development institutions. This included \$447 million to the Inter-American Development Bank, \$284 million to the IMF, \$39 million to World Bank Group's International Development Association, and \$58 million to the International Fund for Agricultural Development. In addition, Haiti owed approximately \$400 million to other individual countries.

H.R. 4573, the Debt Relief for Earthquake Recovery in Haiti Act of 2010, would free Haiti from the burden of international debt. The bill directs the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the U.S. executive directors at multilateral development institutions to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to seek to achieve three things: number one, the immediate and complete cancellation of all debts owed by Haiti to these institutions; second, the suspension of Haiti's debt service payments until such time as the debts are canceled; and, three, the provision of emergency, humanitarian, and reconstruction assistance to Haiti in the form of grants so that Haiti does not accumulate additional debts.

The bill also directs the Secretary of the Treasury and Secretary of State to use all appropriate diplomatic influence to secure the cancellation of all

remaining bilateral, multilateral, and private creditor debt owed by Haiti.

This bill passed the House on March 10, and the Senate passed it with an amendment on March 26. The amendment specified that Haiti should receive aid in the form of grants until February 1, 2015. After that time, multilateral development institutions may resume aid in the form of new loans. I believe 5 years is a reasonable amount of time for Haiti to be able to recover without the burden of debt service payments on new loans.

I therefore support the Senate amendments, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of H.R. 4573, the Debt Relief for Earthquake Recovery in Haiti Act of 2010.

H.R. 4573 takes a good first step towards the goal of eliminating Haiti's uncollectible debts so the country can start to rebuild. Removing this burden will also help Haiti begin the process of becoming a self-sustaining economy.

Nearly identical legislation has already been agreed to by the House under suspension of the rules. The Senate made only two minor changes to the bill to ensure that our commitment to Haiti remains unchanged and it stays focused. One change was that it sets an explicit time period for future grants for Haiti, and the other ensures that assistance provided helps not just today's Haitians but also ensures help for future generations. This is a very sensible, commonsense approach. I support these changes.

I also want to recognize the members of the International Monetary Policy and Trade Subcommittees and the staff of the committee for their bipartisan efforts on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) as much time as he may consume.

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleagues, Representative MAXINE WATERS, Chairman FRANK, Representative GREG MEEKS, and Representative SPENCER BACHUS, for their bipartisan work on this important issue.

Mr. Speaker, as a result of the extraordinary results of January 12, 2010, 230,000 people were killed and more than 1.3 million people were displaced, unable to return to their homes in Haiti. And still today while things are getting better, a desperate need for food, water, and medical care exists. The people of Haiti are facing an enormous struggle to recover from an earthquake at a time when the country was already among the poorest in the world.

This bill supports a humanitarian need through fiscal assistance by allowing our Treasury to cancel the \$828 million debt owed by Haiti. This is the

decent and humane thing to do, and I ask my colleagues to once again support this measure.

Mr. PAULSEN. Mr. Speaker, I encourage strong support of this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, there's been considerable progress mobilizing international support for Haiti since the introduction of this bill. Multilateral development institutions have already begun to take steps to reduce or cancel Haiti's debts. And on March 31, the United Nations hosted the International Donors Conference for Haiti where leaders of the world's nations pledged \$9.9 billion in aid, including \$5.3 billion for the first 2 years. I'm encouraged by this progress, and I'm inspired by the outpouring of support for Haiti from the international community.

The people of Haiti are poor, but they are physically and spiritually resilient. I know with the support of the international community they will recover from this tragedy and create a better future for their children.

Mr. Speaker and Members, in fact, Haiti is the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere, and Haiti has experienced extreme devastation for many years. It was just 2008 when they were hit with four hurricanes and they had not had the opportunity to even try to recover from those hurricanes. At that time, there were many deaths, many houses were destroyed, the roads and the bridges were destroyed. And coming on the heels of that, they were confronted with this most devastating earthquake.

There are those who look at Haiti and say we don't know whether or not this nation can survive. There are those who say, you know, they had problems with governance. They have lived under dictators. They have lived under a Catholic priest who practiced liberation theology where there was a coup d'etat that ousted him, and it goes on and on and on.

But there are many of us who look at this earthquake as opportunity. Despite the severe loss and the devastation, we believe that there is now a real commitment by the world community to come to the aid of Haiti. We believe that there is a real commitment to governance in a new way. We believe that there is a real commitment not only by USAID, the State Department, and the government of our own country, but by other governments around the world to include Haiti in the redevelopment.

And so despite the devastation, I think that many of us are looking forward to the opportunity to help Haiti become the country that it can become. This is going to be a lot of hard work, but this debt relief will go a long way toward helping in that redevelopment.

With this debt relief that means that Haiti will not have to repay debt. They can invest that money in health and

education and infrastructure; and despite the fact that I spent many hours working not only on this debt relief bill but working with my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, I've learned a lot working with the Jubilee Committee and with Mr. BACHUS about what we can do if we cooperate. And that we have been doing.

And so we move forward to help redevelop Haiti, and I would appreciate the support and the vote of my colleagues for this debt relief legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and concur in the Senate amendments to the bill, H.R. 4573.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate amendments were concurred in.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1100

ELIMINATE PRIVACY NOTICE CONFUSION ACT

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3506) to amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception from the continuing requirement for annual privacy notices for financial institutions which do not share personal information with affiliates, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3506

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Eliminate Privacy Notice Confusion Act".

SEC. 2. EXCEPTION TO ANNUAL PRIVACY NOTICE REQUIREMENT UNDER THE GRAMM-LEACH-BLILEY ACT.

Section 503 of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act (15 U.S.C. 6803) is amended by adding the following new subsection:

"(f) EXCEPTION TO ANNUAL NOTICE REQUIREMENT.—A financial institution that—

"(1) provides nonpublic personal information only in accordance with the provisions of subsection (b)(2) or (e) of section 502 or regulations prescribed under section 504(b); and

"(2) has not changed its policies and practices with regard to disclosing nonpublic personal information from the policies and practices that were disclosed in the most recent disclosure sent to consumers in accordance with this subsection,

shall not be required to provide an annual disclosure under this subsection until such time as the financial institution fails to comply with any criteria described in paragraph (1) or (2)."

SEC. 3. BUDGET COMPLIANCE.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go-Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in

the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PAULSEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Kansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Kansas?

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to congratulate the gentleman from Minnesota, Representative ERIK PAULSEN, a member of our Financial Services Committee, as well as the Oversight and Investigations Subcommittee that I chair. I was pleased to introduce H.R. 3506, the Eliminate Privacy Notice Confusion Act, with him and our colleague, Representative PETER ROSKAM, who originally introduced this bill in the 110th Congress when he served on the Financial Services Committee.

In the last Congress, Mr. Speaker, this legislation was included in a bank and thrift regulatory bill I introduced, which was later included in a comprehensive regulatory reform measure this House approved by voice vote. But as is too often the case, the Senate failed to act.

The legislation we consider today will help minimize confusion consumers have about their privacy rights regarding two conflicting provisions of two prior laws. The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act specifically prohibits subject companies from sharing personal information with third parties. Yet the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act still requires these firms to provide annual privacy notices that allow consumers to opt out of having their information shared with third parties. Since this practice is already prohibited by law, these annual notices only confuse the consumers that receive them.

H.R. 3506 will amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to exempt from its annual privacy policy notice requirement any financial institution which meets several criteria and are already prohibited by the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act from sharing personal information with third parties. Waiving the privacy notice requirement will reduce confusion for consumers who may incorrectly think, by receiving the notice, that the companies have the right to share their personal information with third parties.

This should not be confused with the privacy policy financial institutions

must provide to consumers when they open an account, which will be unaffected by this bill.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3506, and I reserve the balance of my time, Madam Speaker.

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3506, the Eliminate Privacy Notice Confusion Act.

This bill will help reduce the burden and confusion of privacy notice requirements by providing exemption from sending an annual privacy notice for those institutions that do not share nonpublic customer information with unaffiliated third parties or those that do not change their privacy policies at all.

Under current law, banks and other financial institutions are required to send out an annual privacy notification to their customers informing them that nothing has changed, and they still do not share privacy information. This is often quite very confusing to customers.

Essentially, under my legislation, financial institutions are relieved of an unnecessary and redundant regulatory burden which will help lower costs and reduce junk mail that the customers receive in the mail every day. It will also lessen confusion to customers because they will no longer receive letters informing them that their bank's privacy policy has not changed at all.

Madam Speaker, it's important to note that this legislation only applies to those institutions that do not share personal financial information with third parties and do not change their privacy policies. This means that the privacy policy that banks must provide to consumers when they open an account remains completely unaffected. The bottom line is that nothing in this legislation in this bill allows for the disclosure of private information and companies are still prohibited from sharing any personal information with third parties.

Similar legislation has passed the House in previous Congresses with strong, bipartisan support; and I want to recognize the bipartisan manner in which that legislation was again handled this year.

Madam Speaker, I especially want to thank Chairman FRANK and Ranking Member BACHUS for their assistance with the legislation and their willingness to bring this legislation and assist me in bringing it to the House floor.

Finally, I want to thank the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) for his hard work on this legislation. He has done exemplary work throughout his 12 years here in this body, and we are going to miss his spirit and commitment of working in a bipartisan manner, and I appreciate his friendship as well.

I ask for a "yes" vote on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. I want to thank the gentleman, Madam Speaker, for his very kind comments.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PAULSEN. Madam Speaker, in closing, this bill is a win/win. It reduces an unnecessary and redundant regulatory burden for consumers, and I ask for adoption of the bipartisan legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. I yield myself 1 minute.

Madam Speaker, again, I commend the gentleman from Minnesota for his work on this bipartisan legislation, and it is bipartisan legislation. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3506.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MOORE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3506, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "To amend the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act to provide an exception from the continuing requirement for annual privacy notices for financial institutions which do not change their policies and practices with regard to disclosing nonpublic personal information from the policies and practices that were disclosed in the most recent disclosure sent to consumers, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

COMMENDING THE AMERICAN SAIL TRAINING ASSOCIATION

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 197) to commend the American Sail Training Association for its advancement of character building under sail and for its advancement of international goodwill, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 197

Whereas the American Sail Training Association (ASTA) is an educational nonprofit corporation whose declared mission is "to encourage character building through sail training, promote sail training to the North American public and support education under sail";

Whereas since its founding in 1973, ASTA has promoted these goals through—

(1) support of character building experiences aboard traditionally rigged sail training vessels;

(2) a program of scholarship funds supporting such experiences;

(3) a long history of tall ship races, rallies, and maritime festivals dating back as far as 1976;

(4) the Tall Ships Challenge series of races and maritime festivals which—

(A) have been conducted each year since 2001;

(B) have reached an aggregate audience to date of some 8,000,000 spectators;

(C) have had a cumulative economic impact of over \$400,000,000 for over 30 host communities; and

(D) involve sail training vessels, trainees, and crews from all the coasts of the United States and around the world;

(5) support of its membership of more than 200 sail training vessels, embracing barks, barques, barkentines, brigantines, brigs, schooners, sloops, and full-rigged ships, which carry the flags of the United States, Canada, and many other nations and have brought life changing adventures to thousands and thousands of young trainees;

(6) a series of more than 30 annual sail training conferences to date, conducted in numerous cities throughout the United States and Canada and embracing the Safety Under Sail Forum and the Education Under Sail Forum;

(7) extensive collaboration with the United States Coast Guard and with the premier sail training vessel of the United States, the square-rigged barque USCGC *Eagle*;

(8) publication of "Sail Tall Ships", a periodic directory of sail training opportunities; and

(9) supporting the enactment of the Sailing Schools Vessel Act of 1982, Public Law 97-322, on October 15, 1982;

Whereas ASTA has ably represented the United States as its national sail training organization as a founding member of Sail Training International, the recognized international body for the promotion of sail training, which itself carries forward a series of international races amongst square-rigged and other traditionally rigged vessels reaching back as far as the 1950s; and

Whereas ASTA and Sail Training International are collaborating with port partners around the Atlantic Ocean to produce Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge 2009, an international fleet of sail training vessels originating in Europe, voyaging to North America, and returning to Europe: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the American Sail Training Association for its advancement of character building experiences for youth at sea in traditionally rigged sailing vessels and its advancement of the finest traditions of the sea; and—

(2) commends the American Sail Training Association as the national sail training association of the United States, representing the sail training community of the United States in the international forum.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) and the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 197.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Introduced by Congressman KENNEDY, H. Res. 197 commends the Amer-

ican Sail Training Association, ASTA, for its work creating opportunities for young people to sail on traditionally rigged sailing vessels and for its work representing the United States in international sail training fora.

Barclay Warburton III founded ASTA in 1973. After he participated in a tall ships race held in Europe, he was inspired to form an organization in the United States that would be dedicated to supporting character building through sail training and promoting sail training to the North American public.

Over the past nearly four decades, ASTA has carried on his vision by working to instill a love of sea in the next generation. The organization gives young people the chance to sail on tall ships and supports professional development among the crew members who work on tall ships. ASTA also organizes tall ship races and associated maritime festivals such as the Tall Ships Challenge Series.

These festivals give young people interested in sailing the chance to experience life on tall ships. They have also enabled millions of spectators to experience the majesty of tall ships and have created significant economic benefits in the coastal communities in which they have been held.

I note that the United States Coast Guard Cutter *Eagle* was used to train cadets at the Coast Guard Academy on the principles of seamanship. It's just one of the many vessels that has worked extensively with ASTA and participated in many ASTA sailing events.

ASTA's work is critical to preserving our Nation's rich maritime heritage and ensuring that its traditions are passed on to the next generation. Madam Speaker, as the chairman of the Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, I urge the adoption of H. Res. 197 of the House today and commend the good work of my friend, Congressman KENNEDY, on this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I might consume.

I rise in very strong support of this resolution.

House Resolution 197 recognizes the contribution of the American Sail Training Association. Tall ships remind us of our proud maritime history and our heritage. Through this Association, many, many young people get an opportunity to train aboard these vessels and to gain important leadership experience.

Sailing provides a great opportunity, a wonderful opportunity, to be outside, to be out in nature, enjoying our Nation's bountiful natural resources. Moreover, it's an opportunity for individuals to learn the value of teamwork, and it provides a personal competitive challenge for each member of the crew as they attempt to match their sailing skills against those of the other boats

and Mother Nature. There's actually nothing like it.

I speak from some personal experience, Madam Speaker. Actually, my family was in the marina business. I sold sailboats before I ever became involved in public service. It was our family business. It was the way we made our living. It was our family hobby.

In fact, some of my fondest memories include participating in what are some of the marquis freshwater sailing regattas in the Great Lakes, of which I am happy to represent a district from, such as the Port Huron to Mackinac race, of which I have raced in 29 of them. Actually, after you race 25, they induct you into something called the Old Goat Society, or, in my case, I am an old nanny goat. I think I am the only old nanny goat in the United States Congress, as well as participating in the Chicago-to-Mackinac freshwater race as well.

Since 1973, the American Sail Training Association has been introducing young people to the world of sailing, specifically on tall ships. Madam Speaker, these experiences instill the values of hard work, leadership, appreciation for our environment, and cooperation as well, all attributes which will serve young people very well throughout their lifetime.

This summer, the American Sail Training Association is going to be partnering with Great Lakes United, which will bring a fleet of international tall ships actually into the Great Lakes. As these vessels sail through the world's largest body of fresh water, in fact, the Great Lakes are fully one-fifth or 20 percent of the fresh water supply of the entire planet, they will be calling on various ports throughout the Great Lakes to promote stewardship of the Great Lakes and the educational benefits of sailing.

Again, as one who has sailed throughout the Great Lakes, I know that the young people who participate in this venture will be astounded by the majesty as well as the challenges that they will face from a sailing and a boating perspective on the Great Lakes.

I certainly commend the American Sail Training Association for their work to promote the continued display and use of these majestic ships, as well as their efforts to provide a platform to advance historical and environmental awareness also and, of course, development of leadership skills amongst our young people.

In closing, I would just say that there are few things, Madam Speaker, more moving or majestic that speak to us of our proud maritime heritage than when we see the tall ships. Who can forget, certainly in our Nation's bicentennial, when the tall ships came into New York Harbor, going by the Statue of Liberty, really speaks to what America is certainly all about, I think.

This resolution recognizes an organization that allows young people to experience these tall ships. I would urge my colleagues to support it.

I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1115

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I just wanted to close here and just say that I agree with the gentlelady with regard to tall ships. Being from the port city of Baltimore, we've had the opportunity to see the tall ships and to see what sailing has done for our country. I think this is an outstanding resolution, and so I would move for the adoption of it and suggest that all Members vote for it.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 197, as amended, introduced by the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY), commending the American Sail Training Association for its advancement of character building under sail and for its advancement of international goodwill.

In 1972, Barclay Warburton III, of Newport, Rhode Island, his two sons, and several friends sailed the brigantine *Black Pearl* across the Atlantic to participate in a tall ships race from England to Sweden. Mr. Warburton was inspired by the enthusiasm and spirit of the young people who participated in the race and, in 1973, he established the American Sail Training Association, ASTA, to provide similar experiences for young people in the United States.

Today, ASTA is a respected nonprofit organization with a mission to encourage character building under sail.

ASTA provides young people with experiences aboard traditionally rigged sail training vessels, and manages scholarship and grant programs. ASTA also organizes and participates in tall ships races and maritime festivals involving vessels and crews from all coasts of the United States and from around the world.

ASTA supports more than 200 training vessels of many types from the United States, Canada, and other nations. Each year, ASTA also supports more than 30 annual sail training conferences throughout the United States and Canada. ASTA also publishes "Sail Tall Ships", a periodic directory of sail training opportunities.

ASTA collaborates extensively with the United States Coast Guard and the USCG *Eagle* to conduct many of its sail training programs.

As the United States' representative in, and a founding member of, Sail Training International, STI, the international body promoting sail training, ASTA recently collaborated with STI and port partners around the Atlantic Ocean to create the Tall Ships Atlantic Challenge 2009: a 7,000-mile trip around the Atlantic over the traditional routes followed by ships during the age of sail.

I thank the gentleman from Rhode Island for introducing this resolution to commend the American Sail Training Association.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 197.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) that the House suspend the

rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 197, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JOHN C. GODBOLD UNITED STATES JUDICIAL ADMINISTRATION BUILDING

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4275) to designate the annex building under construction for the Elbert P. Tuttle United States Court of Appeals Building in Atlanta, Georgia, as the "John C. Godbold United States Judicial Administration Building", as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4275

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The annex building under construction for the United States courthouse located at 56 Forsyth Street in Atlanta, Georgia, known as the Elbert P. Tuttle United States Court of Appeals Building, shall be known and designated as the "John C. Godbold Federal Building".

SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the annex building referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "John C. Godbold Federal Building".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 4275.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS).

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague and my friend Mr. CUMMINGS for yielding. I will not take the 5 minutes.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution to name the annex building at the United States Courthouse on Forsyth Street in downtown Atlanta, Georgia, as the "John C. Godbold Federal Building."

Judge John C. Godbold was born in 1920 in Coy, Alabama, about 100 miles to the west of my hometown of Troy.

In 1966, President Lyndon Johnson appointed Judge Godbold to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth

Circuit, a key post due to the many civil rights cases before the circuit during the fifties, the sixties and seventies.

Judge Godbold holds the distinction of being the only judge in the history of the United States to be the chief judge of two separate judicial circuits, the Fifth, and then later the 11th Circuit in Atlanta. It is with this legislation that we recognize the significant achievement of Judge Godbold and thank him for his many years of service to this country.

Madam Speaker, I would especially like to express my sympathy to Judge Godbold's family, friends, and colleagues on the judge's recent passing in December 2009.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I'd like to yield myself such time as I may consume.

The gentleman from Georgia, I think, just did a great job explaining why we are here today. I'm not going to go through, again, this distinguished American's extensive record of public service. I do want to, though, as the gentleman from Georgia just mentioned, highlight what he just said, that this is the first person to serve as chief judge in two different Federal circuits, which is really a remarkable achievement.

Also, prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Godbold was in private practice, but he also served in the U.S. Army. I always like to highlight when we're here on the floor and we're doing something like naming a building, if, in fact, someone has also served in the U.S. military, which I think is the most noble way to serve our country. I think it's important to highlight.

So again, I want to thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) for bringing this bill. I understand that the entire Georgia delegation is not only supporting this legislation but are cosponsors with him. Again, this is an individual who has an extensive record of public service.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I just want to associate myself with the words of both of my colleagues and urge the Members of this body to support this resolution.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 4275 to designate the annex building under construction for the Elbert P. Tuttle United States Court of Appeals Building in Atlanta, Georgia, as the "John C. Godbold United States Judicial Administration Building." I would also like to commend JOHN LEWIS, the sponsor of this resolution, for his commitment to preserving the accomplishments of John C. Godbold.

The recognition of the accomplishments of Judge John C. Godbold is well overdue. John C. Godbold, born in Coy, Alabama, attended Auburn University and graduated in 1940. Shortly thereafter, he attended Harvard Law School. His studies were interrupted however,

by World War II. He put his studies on hold and joined the Army, where he served as a Major in Europe. After the war, he went back to Harvard Law School to achieve his Juris Doctor degree. Upon graduation, Godbold went into private practice with Richard T. Rives. In 1966, Godbold was appointed to serve as a judge on the Fifth Circuit by President Lyndon Johnson.

After numerous attempts to divide the Fifth Circuit, in 1980 the politics finally gave way to the urgency of doing something about the immense workload of the Fifth Circuit. After receiving petitions signed by every district and circuit judge and every bar association within the circuit, Congress conducted formal hearings and approved on October 14, 1980, the division of the court into two circuits. A new smaller Fifth Circuit Court would stay in New Orleans and exercise appellate jurisdiction over cases originating in Louisiana, Texas, and Mississippi, and a brand new Eleventh Circuit would be located in Atlanta and hear cases coming from Georgia, Florida, and Alabama. The split became official on October 1, 1981, and the twelve judges living in the Eleventh Circuit states all elected to join that circuit, while the 14 judges living within the new fifth chose to stay with that Circuit. Atlanta was now home to the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, and Judge John C. Godbold, who had been chief judge of the old Fifth, became chief of the new Eleventh.

This made Judge Godbold the only person in United States history to serve as the Chief Judge on two separate judicial circuits. In 1987, Judge Godbold became the Director of the Federal Judicial Center in Washington, D.C., for a three-year term, after which he returned as a senior judge. The center is the research and training facility of the Federal Judiciary. In 1990, Judge Godbold was honored by being named the Leslie S. Wright Distinguished Professor at the Cumberland Law School in Birmingham. He was also honored with the Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award in 1996 and inducted into the Alabama Academy of Honor in 2002. The Honorable Judge John C. Godbold died on December 22, 2009, leaving behind a legacy that will continue to resonate in history.

As a member of the Judiciary, Subcommittee Chairman on Courts and Competition Policy, and a former judge myself, I cannot express enough how important this man's life was. He symbolized the epitome of what lawyers and judges strive to be, the character that all of us should strive to show. Please join me and support this resolution to honor Judge John C. Godbold.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4275, as amended, introduced by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), to designate the annex building under construction for the Elbert P. Tuttle United States Court of Appeals Building in Atlanta, Georgia, as the "John C. Godbold Federal Building".

Judge Godbold was a graduate of Auburn University and of Harvard Law School. He was the first person to ever serve as Chief Judge of two different Federal Circuit courts, Judge Godbold assumed senior status in 1987 and served as Director of the Federal Judicial Center from 1987 to 1990. In addition, he was a professor of law at the Cumberland School of Law of Sanford University.

Judge Godbold was also instrumental in devising a process of certifying issues of first im-

pression in Federal court based on state law interpretations, and inviting the state Supreme Court to identify the state law issues and rule on them. Judge Godbold implemented this new procedure in the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit and now more than 40 states have procedures for the certification of state law issues. Judge Godbold was also a well-respected leader in training Federal jurists and authored several publications that addressed responsible advocacy and the role of the rule of law in our lives.

Judge Godbold died late last year on December 22, 2009. He was a man of immense character, and conducted his court proceedings based on fairness and courtesy. He was a courageous judge and dedicated public servant. It is both fitting and proper that we honor his public service with this designation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 4275.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4275, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to designate the annex building under construction for the Elbert P. Tuttle United States Court of Appeals Building in Atlanta, Georgia, as the 'John C. Godbold Federal Building'".

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECOGNIZING THE COAST GUARD GROUP ASTORIA

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1062) recognizing the Coast Guard Group Astoria's more than 60 years of service to the Pacific Northwest, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1062

Whereas Coast Guard Group Astoria was established in 1948;

Whereas Coast Guard Group Astoria units are responsible for safeguarding mariners in the often treacherous waters of the Pacific Northwest;

Whereas Coast Guard Group Astoria's area of responsibility covers more than 140 miles of coastline between Queets, Washington, and Pacific City, Oregon;

Whereas helicopters from Coast Guard Air Station Astoria regularly patrol and respond to offshore missions from the Canadian border to northern California;

Whereas Coast Guard Group Astoria is comprised of Station Grays Harbor in Westport, Washington; Station Cape Disappointment in Ilwaco, Washington; Station Tillamook Bay in Garibaldi, Oregon; Air Station Astoria in Warrenton, Oregon; and Aids to Navigation Team Astoria at Tongue Point, Oregon;

Whereas during an average year, Coast Guard Group Astoria units respond to more than 800 search-and-rescue calls for help, assist more than 1,700 mariners, and save nearly 100 lives;

Whereas the 325 men and women of Coast Guard Group Astoria perform many missions including search and rescue, homeland security, enforcement of laws and treaties, and maintenance of Aids to Navigation;

Whereas Coast Guard Group Astoria supports local Coast Guard cutters in maintaining 470 Aids to Navigation, enabling mariners to safely navigate the coastal waters of Oregon and Washington;

Whereas since 2003, the men and women of Coast Guard Group Astoria have assisted more than 10,000 individuals in distress and saved more than 500 lives;

Whereas since 2003, Coast Guard Group Astoria has conducted more than 1,200 Living Marine Resources missions to ensure commercial fishing vessel crews abide by Federal and State laws in order to preserve fisheries for future generations;

Whereas since 2003, Coast Guard Group Astoria has spent more than 1,000 hours responding to High Interest Vessels to ensure the security of United States ports and waterways in accordance with the Coast Guard's statutory homeland security responsibilities;

Whereas during the December 2007 Pacific Northwest winter storm, Coast Guard Air Station Astoria helicopter crews flew 28 sorties to rescue and save 136 persons as winds exceeded 130 knots; and

Whereas Coast Guard Group Astoria continues to protect the Pacific Northwest and embody the Coast Guard motto, *Semper Paratus*: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the Coast Guard Group Astoria's more than 60 years of service to the Pacific Northwest;

(2) honors the brave men and women of Coast Guard Group Astoria who risk their lives daily to ensure the safety and security of the people of the Pacific Northwest; and

(3) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make available enrolled copies of this resolution to Coast Guard Group Astoria for appropriate display.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 1062.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maryland?

There was no objection.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, as chairman of the Subcommittee on the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, I rise in very strong support of H. Res. 1062 offered by Congressman WU. This resolution recognizes the Coast Guard Group Astoria for the more than 60 years of service it has provided to the Pacific Northwest.

Founded in 1948, Group Astoria is today comprised of Station Grays Harbor in Westport, Washington; Station Cape Disappointment in Ilwaco, Washington; Station Tillamook Bay in Garibaldi, Oregon; Air Station Astoria in Warrenton, Oregon; and Aids to Navigation Team Astoria at Tongue Point, Oregon.

Staffed by 325 Coast Guard members, Group Astoria oversees an area of responsibility that covers 140 miles of coastline in Oregon and Washington. In an average year, members of Group Astoria respond to more than 800 search-and-rescue calls; and since 2003, Group Astoria has saved more than 500 lives and assisted more than 10,000 individuals in distress.

Group Astoria also supports the maintenance of 478 aids to navigation, and over the last 7 years the group has conducted more than 1,200 missions to ensure that fishing vessels working in its area of responsibility are in compliance with commercial fishing laws.

Later this year, Group Astoria will gain additional responsibilities and will be renamed Sector Columbia River. The title Group Astoria will become a historical name.

In advance of these planned transitions, H. Res. 1062 recognizes Group Astoria for its service to the Pacific Northwest and honors the members of the Coast Guard who have served at Group Astoria over the past six decades. I join with my friend Congressman WU and the five cosponsors of H. Res. 1062 in honoring the service of Group Astoria, the 13th District, and indeed of all our Coast Guard members.

I urge the adoption of the resolution by the House today and commend Congressman WU for his work on this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. COBLE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 1062, as indicated by the distinguished chairman, recognizes the longstanding service of Coast Guard Group Astoria to the people of the Pacific Northwest. Group Astoria members, along with their partners at the co-located air station, carry out search and rescue, maritime homeland security, fisheries enforcement, and aids to navigation missions throughout their area of responsibility.

Group Astoria is one of the last of its kind as the Coast Guard has consolidated its personnel and mission capabilities through the establishment of sectors. Members and assets currently assigned to Group Astoria will be combined with other Coast Guard units to stand up the new Sector Columbia River in Astoria later this year, and it is fitting that we celebrate Group Astoria's long history as it embarks on this transformation.

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 1062 gives this House the opportunity to express thanks to members of Coast Guard Astoria and their colleagues sta-

tioned at other Coast Guard sectors and groups for their selfless service to protect those in need.

Madam Speaker, if I may assume a personal role, some years ago, as an active-duty Coast Guardsman, I was assigned to the Port Security Unit at Astoria at the mouth of the Columbia River. So this resolution is taking me down a nostalgic trail, a pleasant nostalgic trail. The past is coming alive, reviving old memories.

So with that in mind, I join with the resolution's sponsor and cosponsors in honoring their service and the service of all Coast Guard members and officers.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to Mr. WU.

Mr. WU. I thank the gentleman.

I rise today to ask my colleagues to join me in supporting House Resolution 1062, which recognizes Coast Guard Group Astoria's more than 60 years of service to the Pacific Northwest. And I thank the gentleman for his service in Coast Guard Group Astoria, his personal service. I want to welcome him back to Oregon any time he chooses to come.

For more than six decades, Coast Guard Group Astoria has served the people of Oregon and Washington and the Pacific Northwest. The 325 men and women of Group Astoria are responsible for patrolling more than 140 miles of coastline, stretching from Queets, Washington, to Pacific City, Oregon, one of the most dangerous and beautiful expanses of water in the world.

The group is comprised of Station Grays Harbor in Westport, Washington; Station Cape Disappointment in Ilwaco, Washington; Air Station Astoria in Warrenton, Oregon; Aids-to-Navigation Team Astoria at Tongue Point, Oregon; and Station Tillamook Bay in Garibaldi, Oregon.

Group Astoria carries out a diverse set of missions, from search and rescue to law enforcement, and from environmental protection to aids to navigation maintenance, but its contributions to our community do not end there. Coast Guard members are also responsible for homeland security functions vital to our national defense. Moreover, Group Astoria personnel are ever-present sentinels guarding our coastal waterways and enabling the safe and steady flow of both commercial and recreational traffic.

I want to add as a personal note that I deeply appreciate the community service and community contributions of the many individuals in Coast Guard Group Astoria that I have known over the past years.

Group Astoria continues to embody the Coast Guard's motto, "Semper Paratus," always ready, each and every day. These men and women risk their lives to ensure that those who venture to sea return home and return home safely.

Each year, Coast Guard Group Astoria responds to roughly 800 search-and-rescue calls for help, assists more than 1,700 mariners, and saves nearly 100 lives. They do so in all types of weather and amid the many challenges of our harsh and beautiful coastline.

□ 1130

One effort in particular stands out in my mind, not only for its heroism but also for the way that it lifted the spirits of all of those affected: in December 2007, Oregon was hit by a winter storm with hurricane-force winds in excess of 130 miles per hour. The storm knocked out power in thousands of homes in northwest Oregon and southwest Washington, and communication in many areas was completely cut off.

Of the many heroes who distinguished themselves that week, the Coast Guard ranks amongst the most courageous. For instance, Coast Guard Air Station Astoria helicopter crews rescued over 130 people trapped by flooding in Chehalis, Washington. In my personal visit there a day or two after the storm, I met one of the rescue divers. He didn't tell me the story, but his colleagues did.

With high winds blowing, he was dropped in the water near Chehalis. There was a residential structure there, a home there. Not only were the lights still on and electricity still flowing to that house, but there was sheet metal flapping in a very strong wind there. At great risk to himself, ignoring the hazard posed by flying sheet metal, he entered this home and found an elderly gentleman lying on a floating couch inside a flooded room. It takes a lot of courage to enter structures like that, which is to do the right thing and to bring the citizens of Oregon and Washington to safety.

For their extraordinary heroism, many of the aircrews involved in these December 2007 rescues were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross. Group Astoria's bravery during that storm is just one example of its service to Oregon's north coast. It illustrates the selflessness and the professionalism that gives Group Astoria its reputation.

Madam Speaker, it is right and fitting that we should recognize Coast Guard Group Astoria's service to the Pacific Northwest. These brave men and women give so much to their fellow Americans, and they ask so little in return.

At this time, I would like to specifically recognize the leadership of Captain Peter Troedsson, who commanded Group Astoria during the 2007 winter storm, as well as Captain Doug Kaup, Group Astoria's current commander.

I am grateful for Coast Guard Group Astoria's service, and I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing their ongoing efforts in protecting the people of the Pacific Northwest. I urge my colleagues to support House Resolution 1062.

Mr. CUMMINGS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, let me associate myself with the words of both of my colleagues. Again, I want to thank Mr. WU for sponsoring the resolution. I also want to thank Mr. COBLE for his service, not only to the United States Coast Guard, but to our subcommittee. He is one of our strongest members and has tremendous passion about the Coast Guard.

As I was listening to both of them, I could not help but think about the fact that the Coast Guard does not always get the recognition that it deserves. It has a little bit over 41,000 members. It is a small agency, a small organization; but I call them our thin blue line at sea. Certainly, Coast Guard Group Astoria is typical of the men and women whom I see all over our country as I travel, and I commend them on so many things that they have done so well.

On that note, when we look back at Katrina and at all of the agencies which operated during Katrina, there is absolutely no question that the United States Coast Guard was the agency that went far beyond the call of duty, rescuing some 35,000-plus lives. Many of these people would have perished if it were not for the bravery and the courage of the United States Coast Guard.

In this resolution, while we are addressing Coast Guard Group Astoria, I think it also says to the other members of the Coast Guard that we are a grateful Congress and that we appreciate everything that they do every day in putting their lives on the line so that they can continue to be our thin blue line at sea.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1062, as amended, introduced by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU), recognizing the Coast Guard Group Astoria's more than 60 years of service to the Pacific Northwest.

With 325 Coast Guard personnel and six units, Group Astoria's area of responsibility encompasses over 140 miles of coastline between Queets, Washington, and Pacific City, Oregon. Group Astoria conducts numerous missions, such as search and rescue, aids-to-navigation, homeland security, and enforcement of laws and treaties.

Each year, Coast Guard Group Astoria receives more than 800 distress calls, assists over 1,700 mariners and save approximately 100 people from perishing at sea. Since 2003, Group Astoria has saved over 500 lives and assisted more than 10,000 recreational boaters and commercial mariners in distress.

Since 2003, Group Astoria had conducted over 1,200 Living Marine Resource missions to ensure commercial fishing vessels are not over-fishing in certain areas, conserving marine resources for future generations.

Air Station Astoria assets provide coverage and respond to offshore distress calls up to the Canadian border and down to northern California. In December 2007, crews from Air Station Astoria flew 28 sorties in 130 knot winds during the Pacific Northwest winter storm saving 136 people. Air Station Astoria also provides assistance to the Air Force Rescue Coordination Center and other local responders with inland search and rescue.

This August, Group Astoria will gain additional responsibilities and will be redesignated as Sector Columbia River, making the title "Group Astoria" a historical name. In light of these planned transitions, H. Res. 1062 recognizes Coast Guard Group Astoria for 60 years of noble service and honors the brave Coast Guard men and women who put their lives at risk every day for the safety and security of the people in the Pacific Northwest.

I thank the gentleman from Oregon for bringing forth this resolution to recognizing the Coast Guard Group Astoria's more than 60 years of service to the Pacific Northwest.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1062.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 1062 that recognizes the Coast Guard Group Astoria's more than 60 years of service to the Pacific Northwest.

Let me take a moment to commend Congressman DAVID WU for bringing this resolution to the floor and giving us the opportunity to commend the Coast Guard for its continued service.

The Coast Guard Group Astoria, based out of Warrenton, Oregon, operates three Sikorsky HH-60 Jayhawk helicopters as it patrols and responds to emergencies throughout the Pacific Northwest. I know how important the Coast Guard is because of its presence in the Port of Long Beach in the 37th District of California, which I represent. I see on a regular basis just how hard those men and women work to protect our coastal areas and waterways. Their presence in my district, as well as my position on the Transportation and Infrastructure Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, make me acutely aware of how important the Coast Guard is to our national security and safety.

We are indebted to the men and women who dedicate their lives to the Coast Guard. These brave men and women, such as those who have spent the last 60 years working for Coast Guard Astoria, are ready and willing to serve their country in whatever way necessary. I support this resolution and urge my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1062, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING DR. HECTOR GARCIA

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 222) recognizing the leadership and historical contributions of Dr. Hector

Garcia to the Hispanic community and his remarkable efforts to combat racial and ethnic discrimination in the United States of America.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 222

Whereas Dr. Hector Garcia changed the lives of Americans from all walks of life;

Whereas Dr. Hector Garcia was born in Mexico on January 17, 1914, and immigrated to Mercedes, Texas, in 1918;

Whereas Dr. Hector Garcia is an honored alumnus of the School of Medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch, Class of 1940;

Whereas Dr. Hector Garcia fought in World War II, specifically in North Africa and Italy, attained the rank of Major, and was awarded the Bronze Star with six battle stars;

Whereas once the Army discovered he was a physician, Dr. Hector Garcia was asked to practice his profession by treating his fellow soldiers;

Whereas Dr. Hector Garcia moved to Corpus Christi, Texas, after the war, and opened a medical practice; rarely charged his indigent patients, and was recognized as a passionate and dedicated physician;

Whereas he first became known in south Texas for his public health messages on the radio with topics ranging from infant diarrhea to tuberculosis;

Whereas Dr. Hector Garcia continued his public service and advocacy and became founder of the American G.I. Forum, a Mexican-American veterans association, which initiated countless efforts on behalf of Americans to advance opportunities in health care, veterans benefits, and civil rights equality;

Whereas his civil rights movement would then grow to also combat discrimination in housing, jobs, education, and voting rights;

Whereas President Kennedy appointed Dr. Hector Garcia a member of the American Treaty Delegation for the Mutual Defense Agreement between the United States and the Federation of the West Indies;

Whereas in 1967, President Lyndon Johnson appointed Dr. Hector Garcia as alternate ambassador to the United Nations where he gave the first speech by an American before the United Nations in a language other than English;

Whereas Dr. Hector Garcia was named member of the Texas Advisory Committee to the United States Commission on Civil Rights;

Whereas President Reagan presented Dr. Hector Garcia the Nation's highest civilian award, the Medal of Freedom, in 1984 for meritorious service to his country, the first Mexican-American to receive this recognition; and

Whereas Pope John Paul II recognized him with the Pontifical Equestrian Order of Pope Gregory the Great: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) encourages—

(A) teachers of primary schools and secondary schools to launch educational campaigns to inform students about the lifetime of accomplishments by Dr. Hector Garcia; and

(B) all people of the United States to educate themselves about the legacy of Dr. Hector Garcia; and

(2) recognizes the leadership and historical contributions of Dr. Hector Garcia to the Hispanic community and his remarkable efforts to combat racial and ethnic discrimination in the United States of America.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONYERS. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous materials on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, this resolution was brought to the Judiciary Committee's attention by our friend SOLOMON ORTIZ of Texas, which recognizes the leadership and historical contributions of Dr. Hector Garcia to the Hispanic community and to the Nation in his remarkable efforts to combat racial and ethnic discrimination. Dr. Garcia was born in Mexico, and his family settled in Mercedes, Texas. So this concurrent resolution recognizes the leadership and historical contributions of this great American.

It is singularly important to me that he graduated from a segregated high school in Texas. Segregated how? Well, it was segregated because Hispanics could not go to the schools that everybody else went to. Of course, African Americans couldn't either, so I guess they had two levels of segregation. Eventually, he got through the University of Texas, and then became a doctor. During World War II, he was a combat engineer, which is a field of the military that I, too, served in. The rest, as they say, is history.

It is my intention to yield to our colleague Mr. ORTIZ, who has more detail that we can add to this, though, Madam Speaker, at this moment, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, first of all, I want to thank my Texas colleague Mr. ORTIZ for introducing this resolution. It reflects well on him and on a wonderful individual who has contributed so much.

I support House Concurrent Resolution 222, which recognizes the leadership and the historical contributions of Dr. Hector Garcia. My colleague in the other body, Senator CORNYN of Texas, sponsored a similar resolution during the last Congress, and I am glad to see that it is being considered in the House this year.

In 1914, Hector Garcia was born in Llera, which is a small town in Mexico. As a child, he was brought to Mercedes, Texas, after his parents fled the Mexican Revolution in 1917. He graduated from the University of Texas Medical School in 1940 and used that education to serve his country in the United States Army.

In the Army, Dr. Garcia served during World War II as an infantryman, as a combat engineer, and as a medical doctor. He earned the Bronze Star medal with six battle stars for his distinguished service; but his public service did not end there. Dr. Garcia founded the American GI Forum in 1948, which fights for equal treatment of Mexican American veterans in medical care and educational benefits.

President Lyndon Johnson made Dr. Garcia the first Mexican American to serve as an ambassador to the United Nations. He also became the first Hispanic to serve on the United States Commission on Civil Rights; and in 1984, President Ronald Reagan bestowed upon Dr. Garcia the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas, SOLOMON ORTIZ, whom we recognize as the dean of the Hispanic Caucus and whom I thank for bringing to our attention this great Texan and American.

Mr. ORTIZ. Thank you, Chairman CONYERS, for giving a beautiful description of my good friend Dr. Garcia, and thank you for bringing this to the floor.

I also want to thank my good friend from Texas (Mr. SMITH) for bringing this resolution to the floor.

Madam Speaker, I rise to honor an American hero who is very well respected in the community. Today, we honor the life and work of Dr. Hector P. Garcia, who is a recognized leader of better health care for all Texans and who is a legendary civil rights advocate and promoter of education for Hispanics.

My resolution, H. Con. Res. 222, honors a lifetime of the extraordinary achievements of Dr. Hector P. Garcia, who lived and worked in my congressional district in Corpus Christi, Texas, for many years.

Dr. Garcia's family emigrated from Mexico in 1914 and settled in Mercedes, Texas. After graduating from medical school, he served with great distinction in World War II. He attained the rank of major and earned the Bronze Star with six battle stars. When the Army learned that Dr. Garcia was a physician, he was asked to practice his profession by treating his fellow soldiers.

When he moved to Corpus Christi, he opened a private practice where he treated all patients regardless of their ability to pay. I was there many times when people just didn't have any money. He was able to give them what they needed free of charge. He was a very honorable man, and he turned down profit to make a better life for all of us, not only in south Texas but throughout the United States.

Dr. Garcia first became known in south Texas for his public health messages on the radio. He was on the air

three times a week with a Spanish program, "Your Health and Welfare." During this time, he struggled to bring attention to severe illnesses such as tuberculosis, which enabled the public to become better educated about its health needs. His messages brought to light the many health issues of the region and the glaring poverty in south Texas.

□ 1145

A man of tremendous talents, Dr. Garcia prized education and fought for other Americans to also value education. In the 1940s, he struggled to abolish the one-room segregated "Mexican schools" that one would find across the Texas landscape. As a result of this example of leadership, Texas schools in Corpus Christi were eventually desegregated, substandard schools for children of Mexican and Latino descent were closed, and students who previously did not have access to adequate education were given the same opportunities available to others. Because of these efforts, four schools are named after him in Texas and one in Chicago, Illinois.

Perhaps most significantly, he emerged as founder of the GI Forum, a Mexican American veterans association to redress the injustices experienced by returning World War II veterans. The GI Forum initiated countless efforts on behalf of Americans in the areas of health care and veterans benefits, and now have more than 160,000 members in 500 chapters in 24 States and Puerto Rico. His civil rights movements would then grow to combat discrimination in housing, in education, and in voting rights.

In recognition of these achievements, President John F. Kennedy appointed Dr. Garcia a member of the American Treaty Delegation for the Mutual Defense Agreement between the United States and the Federation of the West Indies. As President Kennedy once said in another context, "In each of us, there is a private hope and dream which, when fulfilled, can be translated into benefits for everyone." Dr. Garcia understood this uplifting concept as he fought discrimination against the voiceless, for which we should all be proud of.

In 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed Dr. Garcia as alternate ambassador to the United Nations, where he gave the first speech by an American before the United Nations in a language other than English. Dr. Garcia spoke Spanish to a captivated audience.

President Reagan presented Dr. Garcia the Nation's highest civilian award, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, in 1994 for his tremendous service to this country, the first Mexican American to receive that distinction.

Americans should do all they can to learn about Dr. Garcia. He dedicated his life to the less fortunate, and will always be remembered for giving so much of himself for this country and for all of us.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to Mr. CHET EDWARDS of Texas, a real leader on improving relations not just in Texas but across the country.

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas. Madam Speaker, let me begin by thanking the chairman for his kind comments and for his leadership for our country.

Madam Speaker, America is a better country today because of the life and service of Dr. Hector P. Garcia. And we will be a better country tomorrow if every school child hears his story. It is the story of an immigrant child who worked hard, became a physician, and dedicated his entire life to his family and service to country. It is a story that one person can make a difference. It is a story of the timeless values of hard work and service to others. It is the quintessential American story of love of country, expressed through a lifetime of service to others.

One of the greatest privileges of my lifetime was to know Dr. Hector Garcia. He left the world a better place, and his life story continues to inspire everyone who hears it. And it is my hope that every school child in America will hear his story, a true champion of our Nation's never-ending quest for equal opportunity for all.

As a child growing up in Corpus Christi, Texas, Dr. Garcia's hometown, I lived on the same block. At the time, I did not know he was a World War II hero who earned a Bronze Star and the rank of major. I did not know this champion in the cause of American's Hispanic veterans. Yet as I grew older and learned of Dr. Garcia's heroic lifetime of service on the battlefields of war, in the halls of Congress, and in the offices of his medical practice, his life's story became an inspiration that led me to public service.

Had it not been for Dr. Hector, as we called him, I probably would not be in Congress today. For that I am personally grateful. But I am even more grateful for how he made a difference in our Nation's history. May God bless and forever keep in his loving arms Dr. Hector P. Garcia.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 222, a resolution that recognizes the life and contributions of Dr. Hector P. Garcia.

In 1917, at the age of 3, Dr. Garcia immigrated to my hometown of Mercedes, Texas, with his family, where he graduated from my alma mater, Mercedes High School.

Despite the social injustices that pervaded the United States, like those that forced him to attend segregated schools, he earned his medical degree from the University of Texas Medical School.

He served the nation as a commissioned officer in World War II. After the war, he returned to Texas and continued his medical practice. His decision to fight for civil rights was spurred by the gross injustice and inequality he witnessed in the United States. Particularly in the treatment of Hispanic veterans returning from the war. He founded the American GI Forum to help give these Hispanic veterans a voice.

Dr. Garcia also believed that every child should have equal access to education and that everyone deserved health care. He personally treated hundreds of indigent patients regardless of their ability to pay.

Dr. Garcia's life and work continue to be an inspirational force for many, especially in deep South Texas.

His tireless advocacy for civil rights has benefitted all in the United States who view equality as a fundamental component of our Great Nation.

I am honored that I can stand here today and urge my colleagues to pass this resolution recognizing the remarkable achievements of this great American.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 222—Recognizing the leadership and historical contributions of Dr. Hector P. Garcia to the Hispanic community and his remarkable efforts to combat racial and ethnic discrimination in the United States. Dr. Garcia was born in Mexico, in 1914, but his family fled the Mexican Revolution and immigrated to Mercedes, Texas. His is an inspirational story of the possibilities the American Dream holds for immigrants. Through hard work and perseverance, he became a surgeon and served his country in World War II. Dr. Garcia's experiences after his return from the war led him to found the American GI Forum in Corpus Christi, Texas.

Dr. Garcia began helping Mexican-American veterans file claims with the Veterans' Administration, in response to the unacceptably slow treatment they were receiving. On March 26, 1948, he called a meeting to address the concerns of these veterans. This developed into the American GI Forum, which soon had chapters in 40 Texas cities and became the way by which Mexican-American veterans could express their frustration with the discrimination against them.

And so it is with great pleasure that I recognize Dr. Hector P. Garcia, for his service to our country and to the Mexican-American community, and I support this resolution.

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to proudly support H. Con. Res. 222 introduced in the House of Representatives by Mr. ORTIZ. H. Con. Res. 222 recognizes the leadership and lifelong contributions of Dr. Hector Garcia to the Hispanic community and his remarkable work on important issues such as civil rights, health care, veteran benefits, the struggle for racial equality, and ethnic discrimination in the United States of America.

Dr. Hector Garcia was born in the city of Llera in Tamaulipas, Mexico, on January 17, 1914. He is the son of two schoolteachers who legally immigrated to Mercedes, Texas, to escape from the violence of the Mexican Revolution in the early 1900s. He graduated in 1940 from the School of Medicine at the University of Texas Medical Branch, and in 1942 volunteered for combat in the Army during World War II. In 1946, after the war, he and his family returned to Texas and settled in Corpus Christi, where he became the president of the League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC). While in Corpus Christi, Dr. Garcia opened a private practice to treat ill people regardless of their ability to afford health care and he founded the American GI Forum to address VA's discrimination and the right to equality of Hispanic American vet-

erans. Dr. Garcia's strong advocacy and extraordinary work made him the recipient of national and international recognition, including the Nation's highest civilian award in 1984, the Presidential Medal of Freedom, and the Equestrian Order of Pope Gregory the Great from Pope John Paul II in 1990.

Dr. Garcia's leadership, advocacy, work and commitment to Hispanic American civil rights equality, access to health care, and the fair treatment of the government's institutions to its citizens regardless of race and ethnicity constitute his legacy, and his invaluable contribution to the proud history of our great nation.

I commend the life and legacy of Dr. Hector Garcia and his contribution to the Hispanic community in the United States of America, and I strongly encourage my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. DEGETTE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 222.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

WASHINGTON METROPOLITAN AREA TRANSIT REGULATION COMPACT AMENDMENTS

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 25) granting the consent and approval of Congress to amendments made by the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

S.J. RES. 25

Whereas the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia entered into the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact in 1960 with the consent of Congress in Public Law No. 86-794, 74 Stat. 1031;

Whereas the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the District of Columbia amended titles I and II of the Compact in 1962 and 1990 with the consent of Congress in Public Law No. 87-767, 76 Stat. 764, and Public Law No. 101-505, 104 Stat. 1300, respectively;

Whereas legislation enacted by the State of Maryland (2008 Md. Laws c. 32 and 2009 Md. Laws c. 76) the Commonwealth of Virginia

(2007 Va. Acts c. 378 and 2009 Va. Acts c. 540) and the District of Columbia (D.C. Act 17-622) contain amendments to article III of title I of the Compact regarding appointment of members to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission; and

Whereas the consent of Congress is required in order to implement such amendments: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CONSENT OF CONGRESS TO COMPACT AMENDMENTS.

(a) CONSENT.—Consent of Congress is given to the amendments of the State of Maryland, the amendments of the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the amendments of the District of Columbia to article III of title I of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact.

(b) AMENDMENTS.—The amendments referred to in subsection (a) are substantially as follows:

(1) Section 1(a) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) The Commission shall be composed of 3 members, 1 member appointed by the Governor of Virginia from the Department of Motor Vehicles of the Commonwealth of Virginia, 1 member appointed by the Governor of Maryland from the Maryland Public Service Commission, and 1 member appointed by the Mayor of the District of Columbia from a District of Columbia agency with oversight of matters relating to the Commission.”.

(2) Section 1 is amended by inserting at the end the following:

“(d) An amendment to section 1(a) of this article shall not affect any member in office on the amendment’s effective date.”.

SEC. 2. RIGHT TO ALTER, AMEND, OR REPEAL.

The right to alter, amend, or repeal this Act is expressly reserved.

SEC. 3. CONSTRUCTION AND SEVERABILITY.

It is intended that the provisions of this compact shall be reasonably and liberally construed to effectuate the purposes thereof. If any part or application of this compact, or legislation enabling the compact, is held invalid, the remainder of the compact or its application to other situations or persons shall not be affected.

SEC. 4. INCONSISTENCY OF LANGUAGE.

The validity of these amendments to the compact shall not be affected by any insubstantial differences in its form or language as adopted by the State of Maryland, Commonwealth of Virginia and District of Columbia.

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act shall take effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

This jurisdiction comes to the Judiciary Committee under the commerce clause, which says that all compacts must come through the committee. The Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia is being replaced with the District of Columbia agency with oversight of matters relating to the commission. The State Corporation Commission of the Commonwealth of Virginia is being replaced with the Commonwealth’s Department of Motor Vehicles.

There are a number of our colleagues in the Senate that should be thanked for helping expedite this matter: Senators CARDIN, MIKULSKI, MARK WARNER, and JIM WEBB. We are grateful to them all.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution because it is obviously in the interests of all that this commission be governed by a three-member board with one representative each from the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Virginia, and the State of Maryland. I urge its support.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Madam Speaker, it is always nice to agree with the Chairman of the Judiciary Committee. I too support Senate Joint Resolution 25.

This resolution grants Congress’ approval to amendments that the State of Maryland, the Commonwealth of Virginia and the District of Columbia have made to the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Regulation Compact.

Under the amendments, the District of Columbia may appoint its member of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission from any District agency with oversight of matters relating to the commission.

The District is thus freed from the requirement to appoint its member from the District’s Public Service Commission, which no longer has responsibility for affairs regulated by the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Commission.

Similarly, the amendments allow Virginia to appoint its commission member from the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, rather than the State’s Corporation Commission.

The amendments perform a desirable piece of housekeeping regarding the compact. All of the jurisdictions that are party to the compact have agreed to the amendments.

I urge all Members to support the resolution, which aids the operation of this important interstate body.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONYERS. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, S.J. Res. 25.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRUTH IN CALLER ID ACT OF 2010

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 1258) to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit manipulation of caller identification information, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1258

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Truth in Caller ID Act of 2010”.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION REGARDING MANIPULATION OF CALLER ID INFORMATION.

Section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (e), (f), and (g) as subsections (f), (g), and (h), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (d) the following new subsection:

“(e) PROHIBITION ON PROVISION OF DECEPTIVE CALLER ID INFORMATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for any person within the United States, in connection with any real time voice communications service, regardless of the technology or network utilized, to cause any caller ID service to transmit misleading or inaccurate caller ID information, with the intent to defraud or deceive.

“(2) PROTECTION FOR BLOCKING CALLER ID INFORMATION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to prevent or restrict any person from blocking the capability of any caller ID service to transmit caller ID information.

“(3) REGULATIONS.—

“(A) DEADLINE.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Commission shall prescribe regulations to implement this subsection.

“(B) CONSIDERATION OF RELATED REGULATIONS.—In conducting the proceeding to prescribe the regulations required by subparagraph (A), the Commission shall examine whether the regulations under subsection (b)(2)(B) should be revised to require calls that are not made for a commercial purpose to residential telephone lines using an artificial or prerecorded voice to deliver a message to transmit caller ID information that is not misleading or inaccurate.

“(4) LAW ENFORCEMENT EXCEPTION.—This section does not prohibit lawfully authorized investigative, protective, or intelligence activity of a law enforcement agency of the United States, a State, or a political subdivision of a State, or of an intelligence agency of the United States, or any activity authorized under chapter 224 of title 18, United States Code.

“(5) SAVINGS PROVISION.—Except as provided for in paragraph (3)(B), nothing in this subsection may be construed to affect or alter the application of the Commission’s regulations regarding the requirements for transmission of caller ID information, issued pursuant to the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991 (Public Law 102-243) and the amendments made by such Act.

“(6) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this subsection:

“(A) CALLER ID INFORMATION.—The term ‘caller ID information’ means information provided to an end user by a caller ID service regarding the name or the telephone number of the caller or other information regarding the origination of a call made using any real time voice communications service, regardless of the technology or network utilized.

“(B) CALLER ID SERVICE.—The term ‘caller ID service’ means any service or device designed to provide the user of the service or device with the name or the telephone number of the caller or other information regarding the origination of a call made using any real time voice communications service, regardless of the technology or

network utilized. Such term includes automatic number identification services.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation currently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. BOUCHER. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today the House considers H.R. 1258, the Truth in Caller ID Act. This measure was introduced by our colleagues Mr. ENGEL and Mr. BARTON, the ranking member of our Committee on Energy and Commerce. It would direct the Federal Communications Commission to prohibit caller ID spoofing, through which a caller falsifies the original caller ID information during the transmission of a call with the intent to defraud or to deceive.

Typically, caller ID spoofing involves a caller changing the number that would show on the call recipient's caller ID when that call is received. Spoofing has been possible for a number of years, but it has generally required very expensive equipment in order to change the outgoing call information. But with the growth of voice over IP telephoning, spoofing has become easier, and it has become less expensive, and a number of Web sites now are offering spoofing services. So its prevalence, unfortunately, is growing. That growth and the volume of spoofing makes necessary the legislation under consideration presently.

The proliferation of spoofing technologies and services means that those who want to deceive others by manipulating caller ID can now do so with relative ease. Spoofing threatens a number of existing business applications, including credit card verification and automatic call routing, because these systems rely on the telephone number as identified by the caller ID system as one piece of verification and authentication information.

At other times, however, spoofing may be used to protect individuals. I would note an example of domestic violence shelters that sometimes use spoofing to mask the identity of the caller in order to protect that caller's safety. By prohibiting the use of caller ID spoofing only where the intent is to defraud or deceive, this measure will address nefarious uses of the technology while continuing to allow those legitimate uses. In the domestic violence shelter situation, there is no intent to cause harm, which is an element of the crime of deception. There-

fore, using caller ID spoofing to protect the location of a victim of domestic violence is not deceptive, and would be allowed under the provisions of the bill now under consideration.

This measure on previous occasions, in fact in the two previous Congresses, has been approved in the House on the suspension calendar. A similar measure in this Congress has been approved by the Senate. I look forward to advancing this legislation today, and I want to say thank you to Mr. ENGEL, to Mr. BARTON, to my colleague and friend on the Commerce Committee, Mr. STEARNS, and other members of our committee who on a bipartisan basis have contributed to the construction of this measure and advancing it to the floor today. I urge approval of the bill.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of this bill. As the chairman of the Telecommunications Subcommittee has indicated, this has passed twice before. We are coming here hoping that the Senate will take it up and pass it. It is a very good bill. The gentleman from New York has offered this bill.

□ 1200

The bill is called the Truth in Caller ID Act, and obviously it's going to pass overwhelmingly today.

Millions of Americans use caller ID to secure greater privacy for their families. Yet as new technologies continue to be developed, a very simple deceptive practice called “caller ID spoofing” has simply become a growing problem for consumers and also for businesses. Caller ID spoofing occurs when a caller masquerades as someone else by falsifying the number that appears on the recipient's caller ID display. Now, you say, is this difficult? No, it isn't. Caller ID spoofing can make a caller appear to come from any phone number the caller so desires.

Unfortunately, under current FCC regulations, there is no requirement that all callers transmit accurate caller ID information. In fact, there is nothing that prohibits a deceptive manipulation of caller ID. This bill will go a long way in stemming the tide of caller ID spoofing by making it illegal to transmit misleading or inaccurate caller ID information while providing reasonable exemptions for law enforcement activities.

Madam Speaker, the increasing use of Internet telephone services has made it easier for people to make any number, any number, appear as a caller ID. In addition, several Web sites have sprung up to provide caller ID spoofing services, eliminating the need for any special hardware. So think of that. Entrepreneurship of these spoofers now has sprung to such a point that they can provide it on their Web sites. Although these caller ID spoofing services promote themselves for use in prank calls or for entertainment pur-

poses only, these services can be easily accessed and used by criminals.

Caller ID spoofing has emerged as a useful tool for identifying thieves and other scam artists. In addition, many business functions, from credit card verification to automatic call routing, simply depend on caller ID for security purposes, which spoofing can render useless. So, Madam Speaker, these nefarious actions are the target of this bill.

As you can see, this is a serious issue with far-reaching ramifications and implications for both consumers and for all businesses. This is an important bill, and I urge its passage.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the primary author of the legislation, one of our Commerce Committee colleagues, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

Mr. ENGEL. I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I stand today in strong support of my legislation, the Truth in Caller ID Act. But before I begin, I want to first thank my friend and the lead Republican on the Energy and Commerce Committee, Ranking Member JOE BARTON. I also want to thank the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, HENRY WAXMAN, as well as the staff for being so accommodating in getting this bill to the floor today. And I want to thank my friend Mr. BOUCHER, who has helped in bringing this bill to the floor, and my friend and classmate Mr. STEARNS, who quite correctly said this is about as bipartisan a piece of legislation as you can get. This legislation has been developed in an extremely bipartisan manner, and I want to thank and commend everybody who worked on it.

I introduced this bill, Mr. Speaker, because we needed an immediate change in our laws to help prevent identity theft, to crack down on fraudulent phone calls, and to protect legitimate uses of caller ID technology. I first found out about this just simply by reading an article; and when I realized that this is actually something that could be done, I was flabbergasted. I went over to Mr. BARTON, who at the time was the chair of the full committee, and I said, JOE, something really needs to be done about this and would you work with me on it? And he said he would and he agreed and everybody agrees. And the House has passed this bill time and time again, and we hope we can get it passed in both Houses and get it signed.

Last year, the facts are stark, over 6,000 people were victimized by credit card fraud and identity theft. Criminals stole over \$15 million from banks and ruined the credit of thousands of victims. They were able to perpetrate this fraud in some instances by using caller ID spoofing. This disturbing fact about spoofing is not just that it's legal but how easy it is to carry out. Criminals use a tool called a “spoof

card" to change their outgoing caller ID and even to disguise their voices. Now, if you see a caller ID and you see it has a phone number, most people think that it's ironclad that that's the actual phone number that's calling them when in truth it's not. This technology even allows people to disguise their voice in order to trick banks into giving them access to their victims' accounts. So a man can do that and have his voice change into a woman's voice and vice versa.

So it's absolutely deceptive, absolutely scary, and dangerous; and this tool is available to anyone with access to a Web browser. So it's just ridiculous. The technology has gotten so far ahead of us, we need to have these kinds of laws to simply catch up.

Now, no one can dispute that this legislation is necessary. Last year, a person in New York called a pregnant woman whom she viewed as her romantic rival. Spoofing the phone number of the woman's pharmacist, she tricked the woman into taking a drug used to cause an abortion. I use it because it's one of the horrible examples; and there are many, many more horrible examples of how this is used.

And just think about it. Someone could be tricked into giving up personal medical information. Someone could be tricked to giving up banking information. If someone hears that it is their doctor calling and they take a look at the number and they see it's their doctor's number, they would give out personal information, credit card information, even Social Security identification.

So caller ID fraud has even been used to prank call the constituents of a Member of this body with the caller ID readout saying it came from that Member's office. Just imagine if people committed this fraud in the days leading up to a close election. You can call and you can say you are from one candidate's camp when you are really from the other candidate's camp. And when someone looks down at the phone number, they see it's from candidate A and they think it's legitimate, and it's really from candidate B. So imagine what kind of trouble can happen, what kind of mischief can be done. So this really, again, needs to be curtailed.

So, as everyone has said, in response to this problem, Mr. BARTON and I have introduced the Truth in Caller ID Act. Simply, this bill outlaws the deceptive use of caller ID spoofing technology if the intention of the caller is to deceive and harm the recipient of the call.

And let me say we developed that intention through hearings we had in the Energy and Commerce Committee because we want it to be legitimate. There are legitimate times where a number may have to be scrambled. We certainly do it here on Capitol Hill to protect Members and others and staff from having personal phone numbers being given out or private phone numbers being given out. So there is no intent to do that. That is why we say it

outlaws the deceptive use of caller ID spoofing technology if the intention of a caller is to deceive and harm the recipient of a call. And, again, through the hearings we have had, we have refined this bill; and that's why it has such strong bipartisan support.

Let say this bill does not change the rules for legitimate uses of a technology. For example, a domestic abuse shelter will still be able to change their number on caller ID to protect the occupants of the shelter, and I also gave the example about what we do here in Congress.

So I am pleased that this bill passed the House in the 109th and 110th Congresses, and I look forward to its passage again today. I strongly urge my colleagues to support the Truth in Caller ID Act and outlaw this type of fraud once and for all.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me just comment a little bit further. The gentleman from New York mentioned some specific examples. There is another example that is used in political campaigns he perhaps knows about where people can use spoofing to call different homes in robo phone banking that calls and go around the congressional district as a fake and wake people up at 2 or 3 in the morning and people think this is coming from someone who it is not, and this has happened on both sides of the aisle. So this would prevent that. So I think it hits a little closer to home when you talk about it in those terms.

The other point that has been a concern is why has this bill not passed? I think the question has always been some kind of legal questions, whether there is liability involved for the phone company or anyone that transmits this information to a consumer or constituent through this illegal act of spoofing. And we are able to change that language, through bipartisanship, both sides, to try and make it—for example, if a phone company, not knowing, and how would they know, transmits the information, are they going to be liable for this, to be sued? Well, we worked it out that their not knowing, then they should not be liable for this. So I think that's important that this bill now has language that represents bipartisanship agreement so that the passage of this bill should be assured, I think, this time. So this should be the third and last time we're doing this. And in the end, I think it will be good for Americans to understand that this is an illegal activity and we want to stop it.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, I simply want to commend my colleagues on the Republican side for their bipartisan cooperation in bringing this much-needed measure before the House. Our committee performs best when it works in a bipar-

tisan mode, and we have done that with regard to this measure. We will do it with regard to the measure that will shortly be considered.

I also want to commend the gentleman from New York for his persistence in bringing this important measure to the House now for the third time. I very much hope, as I know he does, that we will be successful in having the measure pass through and signed into law.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1258, the Truth in Caller ID Act, an important bill, and one I have taken an interest in as we have worked on it over the last several Congresses in the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Caller ID is a great benefit to millions of Americans by giving them more control over their telephones and who and when they talk on the phone.

Like many technological advances, caller ID is a benefit, but bad actors can take advantage of it and turn the technology against the people it is supposed to help.

We want certain people to be able to mask caller ID information for good purposes, like protecting abused women and children or anonymous whistleblowers, but we do not want people to be able to do it for deceptive purposes.

Last Congress, I had some concern that the bill language did not go far enough to address an issue that arose in Texas with robocalls that were using misleading caller ID information, and I worked with Mr. ENGEL on an amendment to address that.

Every election year, there are reports of abusive or deceptive political robocalls and recently reports claim some of these calls are using deceptive caller ID information.

We don't want to limit anyone's political speech, but why should we allow someone to call voters with fake caller ID info claiming they are from the local Democratic or Republican Party when they are not?

We also do not want these automated calls to use innocent businesses' caller ID info which causes people to blame innocent businesses instead of the real source for the calls.

I applaud the bill's sponsor for strengthening the language to prevent this kind of deception during the Committee process.

I strongly support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for it.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1258, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit manipulation of caller ID information, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RADIO SPECTRUM INVENTORY ACT

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3125) to require an inventory of radio spectrum bands managed by the National Telecommunications and Information Administration and the Federal Communications Commission, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3125

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Radio Spectrum Inventory Act".

SEC. 2. SPECTRUM INVENTORY.

Part B of title I of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration Organization Act (47 U.S.C. 921 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 119. SPECTRUM INVENTORY.

"(a) RADIO SPECTRUM INVENTORY.—In order to promote the efficient use of the electromagnetic spectrum, the NTIA and the Commission shall coordinate and carry out each of the following activities not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this section:

"(1) Except as provided in subsection (e), create an inventory of each radio spectrum band of frequencies listed in the United States Table of Frequency Allocations, from 225 megahertz to, at a minimum, 3.7 gigahertz, and to 10 gigahertz unless the NTIA and the Commission determine that the burden of expanding the inventory outweighs the benefit, that includes—

"(A) the radio services authorized to operate in each band of frequencies;

"(B) the identity of each Federal or non-Federal user within each such radio service authorized to operate in each band of frequencies;

"(C) the activities, capabilities, functions, or missions (including whether such activities, capabilities, functions, or missions are space-based, air-based, or ground-based) supported by the transmitters, end-user terminals or receivers, or other radio frequency devices authorized to operate in each band of frequencies;

"(D) the total amount of spectrum, by band of frequencies, assigned or licensed to each Federal or non-Federal user (in percentage terms and in sum) and the geographic areas covered by their respective assignments or licenses;

"(E) the approximate number of transmitters, end-user terminals or receivers, or other radio frequency devices authorized to operate, as appropriate to characterize the extent of use of each radio service in each band of frequencies;

"(F) an approximation of the extent to which each Federal or non-Federal user is using, by geography, each band of frequencies, such as the amount and percentage of time of use, number of end users, or other measures as appropriate to the particular band and radio service; and

"(G) to the greatest extent possible—

"(i) contour maps or other information that illustrate the coverage area, receiver performance, and other parameters relevant to an assessment of the availability of spectrum in each band;

"(ii) for each band or range of frequencies, the identity of each entity offering unlicensed services and the types and approximate number of unlicensed intentional radiators verified or certified by the Commission that are authorized to operate; and

"(iii) for non-Federal users, any commercial names under which facilities-based service is offered to the public using the spectrum of the non-Federal user, including the commercial names under which the spectrum is being offered through resale.

"(2) Except as provided in subsection (e), create a centralized portal or Web site to make the inventory of the bands of frequencies required under paragraph (1) available to the public.

"(b) USE OF AGENCY RESOURCES.—In creating the inventory described in subsection (a)(1), the NTIA and the Commission shall first use agency resources, including existing databases, field testing, and recordkeeping systems, and only request information from Federal and non-Federal users if such information cannot be obtained using such agency resources.

"(c) REPORTS.—

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (e), not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section and biennially thereafter, the NTIA and the Commission shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and to the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives containing—

"(A) the results of the inventory created under subsection (a)(1), including any update to the information in the inventory pursuant to subsection (d);

"(B) a description of any information the NTIA or the Commission determines is necessary for such inventory but that is unavailable; and

"(C) a description of any information not provided by any Federal or non-Federal user in accordance with subsections (e)(1)(B)(ii) and (e)(2)(C)(ii).

"(2) RELOCATION REPORT.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (e), the NTIA and the Commission shall submit a report to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives containing a recommendation of which spectrum, if any, should be reallocated or otherwise made available for shared access and an explanation of the basis for that recommendation.

"(B) DEADLINES.—The report required under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this section and every 2 years thereafter.

"(3) INVENTORY REPORT.—If the NTIA and the Commission have not conducted an inventory under subsection (a) to 10 gigahertz at least 90 days before the third report required under paragraph (1) is submitted, the NTIA and the Commission shall include an evaluation in such report and in every report thereafter of whether the burden of expanding the inventory to 10 gigahertz outweighs the benefit until such time as the NTIA and the Commission have conducted the inventory to 10 gigahertz.

"(d) MAINTENANCE AND UPDATING OF INFORMATION.—After the creation of the inventory required by subsection (a)(1), the NTIA and the Commission shall make all reasonable efforts to maintain and update the information required under such subsection on a quarterly basis, including when there is a transfer or auction of a license or a change in a permanent assignment or license.

"(e) NATIONAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY INFORMATION.—

"(1) NONDISCLOSURE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If the head of an executive agency of the Federal Government determines that public disclosure of certain information held by that agency or a licensee of non-Federal spectrum and required by

subsection (a), (c), or (d) would reveal classified national security information or other information for which there is a legal basis for nondisclosure and such public disclosure would be detrimental to national security, homeland security, or public safety, the agency head shall notify the NTIA of that determination and shall include descriptions of the activities, capabilities, functions, or missions (including whether they are space-based, air-based, or ground-based) supported by the information being withheld.

"(B) INFORMATION PROVIDED.—The agency head shall provide to NTIA—

"(i) the publicly releasable information required by subsection (a)(1);

"(ii) to the maximum extent practicable, a summary description, suitable for public release, of the classified national security information or other information for which there is a legal basis for nondisclosure; and

"(iii) a classified annex, under appropriate cover, containing the classified national security information or other information for which there is a legal basis for nondisclosure that the agency head has determined must be withheld from public disclosure.

"(2) PUBLIC SAFETY NONDISCLOSURE.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—If a licensee of non-Federal spectrum determines that public disclosure of certain information held by that licensee and required to be submitted by subsection (a), (c), or (d) would reveal information for which public disclosure would be detrimental to public safety, or the licensee is otherwise prohibited by law from disclosing the information, the licensee may petition the Commission for a partial or total exemption from inclusion on the centralized portal or Web site under subsection (a)(2) and in the report required by subsection (c).

"(B) BURDEN.—The licensee seeking an exemption under this paragraph bears the burden of justifying the exemption and shall provide clear and convincing evidence to support such an exemption.

"(C) INFORMATION REQUIRED.—If an exemption is granted under this paragraph, the licensee shall provide to the Commission—

"(i) the publicly releasable information required by subsection (a)(1) for the inventory;

"(ii) to the maximum extent practicable, a summary description, suitable for public release, of the information for which public disclosure would be detrimental to public safety or the licensee is otherwise prohibited by law from disclosing; and

"(iii) an annex, under appropriate cover, containing the information that the Commission has determined should be withheld from public disclosure.

"(3) ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURE.—The annexes required under paragraphs (1)(B)(iii) and (2)(C)(iii) shall be provided to the congressional committees listed in subsection (c), but shall not be disclosed to the public under subsection (a) or subsection (d) or provided to any unauthorized person through any other means.

"(4) NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL CONSULTATION.—Prior to the release of the inventory under subsection (a), any updates to the inventory resulting from subsection (d), or the submission of a report under subsection (c)(1), the NTIA and the Commission shall consult with the National Security Council for a period not to exceed 30 days for the purposes of determining what additional information, if any, shall be withheld from the public.

"(f) PROPRIETARY INFORMATION.—In creating and maintaining the inventory, centralized portal or Web site, and reports under this section, the NTIA and the Commission shall follow their rules and practice regarding confidential and proprietary information. Nothing in this subsection shall be construed to compel the Commission to make

publicly available any confidential or proprietary information.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members will have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the measure now under consideration and insert extraneous material into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Wireless communications services are rapidly growing. Each year, millions of users graduate from basic cellular telephone services to Smart telephones that employ a broad range of data services. Those services require far greater bandwidth than traditional cellular telephones; and the data services that are offered through Smartphones are becoming ever more sophisticated, often employing full-motion video as part of the range of applications that can be made available through the Smartphones.

The combination of greater Smartphone use and far more elaborate applications is placing unprecedented demands on our limited wireless spectrum availability. To meet these growing needs, in the near future more spectrum must be made available for commercial wireless communications services, and that new spectrum would be made available for auction to the successful wireless bidders.

Even the launch later this year of the fourth generation of the wireless services by the major cellular service providers using the spectrum that was previously occupied by the television broadcasters for their analog television transmissions will only provide a brief respite with regard to these ever-rising demands for additional spectrum, and so we clearly are compelled to act.

Responding to this need, last July I joined with Chairman WAXMAN; our full committee ranking member, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BARTON); and my friend and colleague on the subcommittee, our subcommittee ranking member, Mr. STEARNS, in introducing the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act, which is before the House this morning.

□ 1215

It directs the NTIA and the U.S. Department of Commerce and the Federal Communications Commission to undertake a comprehensive survey of the Nation's spectrum and report to us on current spectrum utilization, and include recommendations of which, if any, of the least utilized blocks of spectrum could be reallocated for commercial

use or subjected to spectrum sharing with commercial users.

The measure is a thoughtful approach to meeting the extraordinary spectrum demands that our Nation will soon face. It will produce a timely blueprint for our future decisions about which spectrum should be reallocated for auctions to commercial service providers.

Under the bill, within 1 year of the date of enactment, the NTIA and the FCC would also create a Web site to make the spectrum inventory publicly available. They would report the results of the inventory to the House and Senate Commerce Committees within 2 years of the date of enactment, and that report would include a description of the information that could not be made publicly available for national security reasons.

The agencies would also, within 2 years, submit to the House and Senate Commerce Committees a reallocation report that would include a recommendation of which spectrum should be reallocated or otherwise made available for shared access. That recommendation should be updated by the agencies in follow-on reports to the committees, which are to be submitted every other year following the submission of the initial report. Those follow-on reports may be updates to the initial report and not necessarily be top-to-bottom reviews.

I want to express appreciation to our colleagues on a bipartisan basis—Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BARTON, Mr. STEARNS, other members of the subcommittee—who, in our hearing and markup sessions in the subcommittee, contributed richly to our dialogue and to structuring the legislation that we have before us this morning. It is a bipartisan measure. All of the committee members have been involved in this constructive exercise, and I want to thank them for their participation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge approval of the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I also rise in support of H.R. 3125, the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act. As the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) mentioned, it's a very important bill, and I urge its passage.

This bill offers an opportunity to evaluate all of the frequency bands between 225 megahertz and 10 gigahertz and simply to determine who uses these frequency bands and the purpose for which they are being used.

While this bill requires NTIA and the FCC to recommend which spectrum, if any, should be reallocated, Congress ultimately will decide whether reallocation should occur. For Congress to make such an informed judgment, we need a solid set of facts before we do it. So it's very clear that the United States will need additional spectrum to meet the growing demand for wireless broadband, fourth-generation wireless.

In fact, we are victims of our own success in this country.

The United States currently leads the world in wireless. Wireless providers have used spectrum to provide U.S. consumers with many innovative voice and data services. The number of mobile voice consumers in the United States has surpassed the number of wire line customers. Back in 1996, when we passed the Telecommunications Act, I don't think anybody would have thought that would have happened. And the number of mobile broadband consumers has increased exponentially over the past several years.

As customers increase the amount of time they spend on their mobile devices talking, emailing, surfing the net, cell sites become constrained for capacity. As a result, we are facing, in the words of FCC Chairman Genachowski, a “looming spectrum crisis.” For example, a voice call requires approximately 10,000 bits per second, while downloading a video requires millions of bits per second.

This bill creates a thoughtful, comprehensive process through which Congress can identify whether to reallocate spectrum that is currently underutilized. Current license holders should not fear this process. It will be open and transparent and provide all spectrum users with the opportunity to explain the purposes for which they use spectrum.

This is a beginning, Mr. Speaker, not the end of the debate over the future of the spectrum policy in the United States.

Now, this is a bill that's very important. You'd almost consider it not only for innovation and for commercial use, but long term, on behalf of national security purposes, too. So don't discount the fact that we are just asking for an inventory. It's something that should be done, and I think anybody who's interested in fiscal responsibility should realize asking for an inventory is the best way to find out what you have and how to use it better.

So I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, at this time I'm pleased to yield to the chairman of the Energy and Commerce Committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) and principal author of this measure, such time as he may consume.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3125, the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act, which I introduced last year with Chairman BOUCHER, Ranking Members BARTON and STEARNS, and more than a dozen of our colleagues on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

This timely, bipartisan legislation creates a process for full inventory, mapping, and accounting of current spectrum use by Federal and non-Federal users. This measure will inject transparency in the way our government and the private sector utilizes

the critical public resource. With the benefit of this inventory, we can make informed, rational, and deliberate decisions about how our spectrum is used in future decades to benefit the American people, American businesses, and American innovation.

It also creates a parallel process for a regular assessment of whether any spectrum should be reallocated or otherwise made available for shared access to improve the efficiency with which we utilize this precious resource.

I'm pleased that the bill includes a strong national security section reflecting the result of extensive bipartisan consultation with the defense and intelligence communities. The bill we consider today strikes a proper balance between providing useful information to the public about the nature and use of spectrum, while safeguarding national security, homeland security, and public safety interests.

I urge my colleagues to support this important measure.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to Mr. PITTS, the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to speak on the bill.

As the chairman of the Congressional Electronic Warfare Working Group, I believe that the electromagnetic spectrum is critically important to our current and future military operations and national security. And I'm pleased to see that the committee has taken into consideration some concerns raised by the administration and the electronic warfare community regarding this bill. However, the electromagnetic spectrum is a dynamic and ever-changing environment, and we must ensure that our Armed Forces can manage the utilization of the spectrum and provide long-term strategic planning and program development.

While I understand the importance of the potential economic value of the spectrum inventory, it is vital that this bill take into account the criticality of the electromagnetic spectrum to military training and operations and the importance of the U.S. military controlling the spectrum in conflict.

I will support this bill today, but we must be very vigilant as the inventory is taken. If mistakes are made, serious negative consequences will ensue, consequences that could harm the warfighter and his ability to use the spectrum in training and war.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, at this time I'm pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD).

Mr. BUTTERFIELD. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank the gentleman for yielding time and thank him for his leadership on the committee and subcommittee, as well as the leadership of the ranking member.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 3125, the bipartisan Radio Spectrum Inventory Act, introduced by our

chairman, Mr. WAXMAN, who just spoke a moment ago.

Mr. Speaker, last year, 2009, a Pew study found that while African Americans are less likely than others to use a desktop computer to access the Internet, they are more likely to access the Internet over a wireless device. And so it is incredibly important to know the available spectrum and how to use it in the most efficient way so that wireless broadband service is as ubiquitous and robust as possible.

We can help facilitate that goal by ensuring that additional spectrum will be available when it is needed. And given the long lead times that often are associated with efforts to bring spectrum to market, the time to start is now. The Radio Spectrum Inventory Act will help ensure that we know where future allocations of spectrum can be drawn from so that our constituents can have the services they need when they need them.

This is a good bill, Mr. Speaker. I support it. I ask my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3125, the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act.

The most pressing issue that we're facing right now in the mobile wireless and Internet industries is the availability and use of spectrum, especially given the dramatic increases we're seeing in the use of wireless services. As wireless technologies continue to advance and more Americans use mobile devices for data-intensive purposes, the demand for spectrum will grow rapidly.

We're seeing every day with all of the new things that can be done just on a cell phone, not only running daily applications to help businesses, but we also can do more things in terms of downloading actual movies and getting direct access. You can look at things happening in real time, and, of course, this takes more spectrum. So additional spectrum will be needed, and that's why this Radio Spectrum Inventory Act will help promote and advance the effective and efficient use of the spectrum that's out there.

The first step, of course, must be to identify what spectrum is available and how the current spectrum is being used in an efficient manner, and this inventory act will do just that. It will require NTIA and the FCC to undertake a comprehensive survey of the Nation's spectrum and develop a full inventory. Taking this inventory is the only way we'll be able to know what spectrum can be located and what spectrum can be shared and used in a more efficient manner. We will then be able to decide the best ways to utilize that spectrum.

The convergence of mobile, wireless services, high-speed Internet access, and powerful handsets promise to transform almost all aspects of the way Americans work, learn, deliver services, and enhance our public safety.

Congress should move expeditiously on this inventory legislation and avoid additional costs, and also unleash the potential and create more jobs in these industries that are out there innovating and helping people live in a better way of life.

So I encourage support of this bill. I thank the gentleman for bringing it.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, at this time I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), chairman of the Subcommittee on Energy and the Environment of our Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts. I thank the gentleman very much, and I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) for his leadership on this critical issue, along with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) in partnership with Mr. WAXMAN and with Mr. BARTON.

Mr. BOUCHER and I have been working on these issues for many, many, many years, and this bill that has been produced by his subcommittee is something that, in my opinion, is going to go a long way towards helping our country to create a new boom economically in this wireless sector. We saw a great boom in the 1990s when we moved over 200 megahertz of spectrum, creating the third, fourth, fifth and sixth cell phone license, combined with the Telecom Act of 1996. We saw, actually, a transformation in the way in which we communicate in our country.

Who would think that we could move from black rotary dial phones to BlackBerrys in just 10 years, almost on a ubiquitous basis.

□ 1230

Who would think that Mr. STEARNS could be checking his BlackBerry even as I'm speaking out here on the floor? That's something we're very proud of. We're very proud of that revolution in the 1990s. And I think we have the potential here in this legislation to accomplish the very same kind of addition to the spectrum capacity. And Ms. BLACKBURN is showing not only can we use these devices now for voice but also for video and for data.

It's become a technology with the great deal of flexibility; yet because of this technology, we are going to be able—and I thank the chairman for this—to inventory each radio spectrum band of frequencies from 225 megahertz to 10 gigahertz, and that includes the radio services authorized to operate within each band of frequencies, the identity of each Federal or non-Federal user within which such radio service is authorized to operate in each band of the frequencies, the total amount of spectrum by band of frequencies allocated to each Federal or non-Federal user and an approximation of the extent to which each Federal or non-Federal user is using each band of frequencies.

This basic goal that the legislation advances to create this inventory will

make it possible for us to build on this revolution that occurred from the mid-1990s to 2005 where companies whose names did not exist—Google, eBay, Amazon, Hulu, YouTube—are now replaced or added to with a whole new generation of companies, of technologies, of gadgets and applications that will give incredible economic stimulus to our country.

So what we have here is a debate over the American economy, and it's central to our wellbeing; yet in a lot of ways, it just doesn't get talked about as being the biggest part of what happened in the 1990s. And as it moves into the 21st century, we're seeing these technologies now be included in new energy technologies, new health care technologies, new education technologies. It now has infiltrated technology after technology in our country.

And what the gentleman from Virginia is doing in a bipartisan partnership with the gentleman from Florida is, in my opinion, central to ensuring that we have the leadership in this mobile innovation, that we have a smart spectrum policy that is put on the books, and then we can just get out of the way and watch these entrepreneurs and watch these whole tech communities make it possible for us, with a little bit of luck from Mr. STEARNS and others, that the applications become so great that perhaps he and millions of other Americans will never again have to look up from their BlackBerry. There will just be so much interesting stuff that is on it, it will be so versatile.

So thank you so much and congratulations. I urge an "aye" vote on this important legislation.

Mr. STEARNS. I yield myself 15 seconds to reply to the distinguished Member of Massachusetts.

I just got a tweet on Twitter notifying me that Representative ED MARKEY was speaking. His fan club is so omnipresent that it just came across saying to everybody in the United States that he was on the floor speaking so eloquently. So I couldn't resist pulling it up and seeing what it said.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN).

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman for his diligent work on this bill and also Mr. STEARNS for his leadership as we worked through these issues in committee. And I do rise in support of the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act.

In committee, I highlighted the importance of listening to the engineers as we move forward on our spectrum inventory. And today I want to talk about the importance of this bill to the wireless industry. America's wireless industry is the undisputed world leader, and Mr. STEARNS and Mr. MARKEY have both highlighted portions of that as we have played with our devices during Mr. MARKEY's remarks focusing on the innovations that have come our way.

Americans pay less per minute for the use of wireless services than users in Europe or Asia. And despite having just 7 percent of the global wireless subscribers, America's wireless companies serve more than 21 percent of global 3G subscribers. Handsets and applications that can be launched anywhere in the world routinely appear in the U.S. market first.

Unfortunately, our position in the global marketplace is not something that is guaranteed to us, and without careful attention to support the need of the growth of the wireless industry through the release of additional spectrum, we risk ceding that important leadership to nations that have already identified substantial swaths of spectrum that will be made available for commercial use. That is why the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act is so very important by providing a road map for policymakers regarding where we may find additional spectrum that can be used for wireless broadband services in the U.S. Enactment of H.R. 3125 will help ensure that the U.S. is in a position to match, and hopefully surpass, our trading partners by making additional spectrum available for commercial use.

I urge support of the legislation.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield some time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Tennessee to engage in a colloquy with the chairman of the Subcommittee on Telecommunications.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I would yield to the gentleman from Virginia and ask permission for the colloquy.

Mr. BOUCHER. The gentlelady controls the time. I will be happy to engage in the colloquy with the gentlelady.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I thank the gentleman from Florida for the time.

And, Mr. Chairman, last month the Federal Communications Commission released its National Broadband Plan which contained some very ambitious recommendations with respect to spectrum availability. I would like to ask the subcommittee chairman his views on how the FCC should proceed on the inventory required by this bill and on the recommendations of the broadband plan. Is it the chairman's view that the inventory required by this bill should inform the FCC in its decision-making with respect to the potential reallocation of spectrum sought by the broadband plan?

Mr. BOUCHER. Would the gentlelady yield?

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Yes.

Mr. BOUCHER. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

There is no doubt that more spectrum is needed to meet our Nation's rising demand for wireless services. Conducting the spectrum inventory that this legislation requires is an essential first step. It will offer a clear path and a road map for the next steps in making available adequate spectrum by giving the Congress and the FCC a

baseline of the location and use of our spectrum resources. That baseline should inform the Congress and the commission on decisions regarding spectrum use and possible spectrum reallocation.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I thank the subcommittee chairman for his explanation, and I associate myself with his remarks. I share the chairman's expectation regarding the importance of collecting and analyzing the data in the spectrum inventory before making decisions about possible spectrum relocation.

I'd also like to add my own expectation that the spectrum inventory will be thorough and scientific in order to serve as an accurate metric of our spectrum use.

I have one final question to ask the chairman. The broadband plan includes recommendations regarding reallocation of many of the frequencies currently used to provide broadcast television service. The plan recommends starting with voluntary measures to relocate broadcast stations to different frequencies; But it then hints that other, presumably involuntary, methods of relocating broadcast stations may be necessary.

My question, Mr. Chairman, is whether you believe that the FCC should engage in involuntary methods to move broadcasters to different frequencies in order to free up additional spectrum.

Mr. BOUCHER. Would the gentlelady yield?

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Yes.

Mr. BOUCHER. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

As to the first matter, I agree with her that a thorough scientific examination of spectrum use must be the core of the inventory that this measure requires. I also agree that the right approach is for the FCC to work with television broadcasters to identify the spectrum they now hold that on a purely consensual basis could be repurposed for commercial wireless use. Broadcasters who surrender spectrum would receive compensation in exchange for a voluntary spectrum transfer. I would not support the commission's requiring stations to give up spectrum involuntarily.

The right approach is that specified in this legislation—learn where we are, understand thoroughly how current spectrum is used, identify that part that is perhaps underutilized that could be reallocated or submitted to spectrum sharing through the new spectrum sharing technologies and then to the extent that based on that inventory it would be appropriate for broadcasters to enter into conversations about surrendering a portion of their spectrum on a voluntary basis, that would obviously be an appropriate step. It would not be an appropriate step to require that broadcasters engage in the surrender of any part of the spectrum they hold.

And I thank the gentlelady for raising these very important questions

that help illuminate the debate this morning.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I thank the chairman for his explanations.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, at this time I'm pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. INSLEE).

Mr. INSLEE. I want to congratulate those who have been working on this, the Chair, ranking member, to get this bill through.

I want to make two points. This effort is one that reaches in to improve certain areas that we may not think of when we think about spectrum. I note the little town of Republic in Washington, in eastern Washington, where my grandmother grew up—and it's a great town—but right now you essentially have to shut down the entire city's access to the Internet to send one X-ray from a physician in Republic to a reader, an expert in Seattle to read the X-ray. You have to sort of shut down the whole town because we don't have enough access in spectrum. This making access to spectrum more available helps health care in many, many places across the country.

The second point I want to make, I met with my law enforcement community last week who are still thirsting after an interoperable standard so that we can in fact have interoperability for emergency services radio communications. We still don't have this at this late date. Freeing up spectrum, allowing a financing system to really build that out is necessary.

So this is good for economic growth. It is good for health care. It is good for emergency services. There are multiple reasons this is heading in the right direction.

I do want to point out—and I'm happy to have co-sponsored this bill. We have another bill we hope to have on the floor in a while, the Spectrum Relocation Improvement Act, to improve the availability to do auctions to get this out into commerce. We look forward to working with the chair and ranking member to get this bill to the floor so we can build on this success.

Congratulations.

Mr. STEARNS. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BROUN).

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. I thank Mr. STEARNS for yielding.

We may very well be needing to focus on the radio frequency spectrum that is in the public domain; but, Mr. Speaker, this Congress is ignoring the greatest spectrum that the American people are demanding, and that's where are the jobs. We're not focusing on public policies that are going to create a stronger economy and create jobs. In fact, we are developing policy over and over again that this leadership of this House and this Senate and the President are forcing upon the American people that are going to take away jobs.

The ObamaCare bill is going to kill millions of jobs. The jobs bill that we

saw in past jobs I and II, et cetera, are going to kill jobs and not create jobs. They're going to create government jobs. And the American people are asking where are the jobs, not where is the spectrum. Radio spectrum, though, that is an important issue.

But this Congress needs to focus upon jobs, Mr. Speaker, and the American people need to demand that this Congress do just that.

□ 1245

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUCHER. Mr. Speaker, I want to again thank all Members who have participated on a bipartisan basis in bringing this measure to the floor. Many Members have contributed to its construction. It is the right path to take.

This will bring us to a point where we are in a position to decide how to meet the rising spectrum demands that inevitably we will confront within just a few years. It is the right approach, and I commend this measure to the House and urge its approval.

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 3125, the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act. I commend Chairman WAXMAN, Ranking Member BARTON, and the Energy and Commerce Committee members for producing this excellent, bipartisan bill. The legislation would require the National Telecommunications Information Administration and the Federal Communications Commission to work together in creating and maintaining an accurate, comprehensive database of the radio broadcast spectrum.

As the FCC acknowledged in its recent National Broadband Plan, we are facing a spectrum shortage in the United States. Wireless carriers have suggested that current allocation of spectrum is inadequate to meet our growing demands. As third-generation (3G) technology matures, and fourth-generation (4G) rolls out, the demands on wireless broadband networks will only increase. This growth of wireless broadband will be constrained if government does not make spectrum available to enable network expansion and technology upgrades. It is also important to support the FCC's goal of making 300 megahertz of spectrum available for commercial use over the next 5 years, and 500 megahertz available over the next 10 years.

In order for that to happen, we must first have an adequate understanding of how the current spectrum is allocated and utilized. This critical bill allows the FCC and NTIA to identify spectrum that can be reallocated for commercial wireless use. In addition to creating an inventory, the bill allows for the creation of a centralized Web site to make the inventory available to the public. It also addresses concerns related to public disclosure in regards to national security, homeland security, or public safety issues.

Having an inventory will be instrumental in evaluating which bands can be reallocated for commercial mobile use. This bill represents the first step in the process of addressing the spectrum needs of existing and new mobile broadband providers. I commend the authors for bringing this bill to the House floor, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting for it.

Mr. MCNERNEY. Mr. Speaker, I take this opportunity to express my support for H.R. 3125, the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act, of which I am a cosponsor. While much of our economy has experienced unfortunate challenges over the last few years, the technology and innovation sectors continue to stay afloat and even grow. To help foster this growth, it is vital that Congress enact forward-thinking policies such as those embodied by the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act. Itemizing currently-utilized spectrum will allow us to take additional steps to use available resources more efficiently. Enactment of H.R. 3125 will also help our country identify unused spectrum, which can subsequently serve to accommodate the growing demand for spectrum that must be met to allow consumers to have better access to broadband technology.

The families and businesses that benefit so greatly from broadband services are depending on us to take actions that will encourage innovation and help preserve our country's position as the world's leader in high technology. H.R. 3125 is an important step towards improving the way we work, deliver health care, consume energy, and teach students, and I encourage all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3125, the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act.

As a veteran who served in Baghdad in 2003, I know firsthand how important proper radio use was for ensuring the success of our missions and safety of our troops. In the military every part of the radio spectrum had a specific purpose and was allocated based on efficiency and suitability.

Yet, in America the historical legacy of radio spectrum development has led to a patchwork system full of inefficiency. Additionally, there is a lack of information about current usage which has left America at a competitive disadvantage for developing new innovations in wireless service. Our economic success will depend on a new strategy for properly using our wireless spectrum so that we can innovate and develop new services to improve the connectivity of the American people and continue to fuel economic growth.

Every day new and useful applications are added to wireless service and the need for more radio spectrum to meet those needs increases. The Radio Spectrum Inventory Act would allow lawmakers, consumers and industry to know what spectrum is being used and how. By identifying gaps in spectrum use and inefficient spectrum allocations, this bill will help us understand the best approach to meet the growing demand for additional spectrum.

With the important information collected as a result of this bill, we can have an informed debate about how to most efficiently use and allocate our limited spectrum resources so that we can best meet the changing needs of the American public.

Mr. Speaker, it is time that we take a serious look at the future spectrum needs of this country in order to properly prepare for the challenge. The right way to start is by gathering more information on our current situation. The Radio Spectrum Inventory Act will take this first step and put us on the right path to effectively develop a better strategy to meet our nation's growing wireless needs.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support passage of H.R. 3125, The Radio

Spectrum Inventory Act. I'm proud to be an initial cosponsor of this legislation, and I look forward to seeing it enacted into law. Thank you, Chairman WAXMAN for your leadership on this bill, and I appreciate the important bipartisan work of the Ranking Minority Member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, JOE BARTON.

We pass this bill at an opportune moment. This past month, the Federal Communications Commission released its National Broadband Plan. The FCC pointed out what many of us already have known for a long time—broadband rollout requires an increasing amount of spectrum.

We're already seeing competing industries squabble over spectrum, and we are in danger of having an all-out range war between the wireless industry and broadcasters. We can head it all off at the pass by doing the obvious—review our resources first, and reallocate second.

That doesn't mean I want the FCC to stand still while we review the spectrum chart. There is plenty of spectrum already available, like the Advanced Wireless Spectrum, that should go for useful purposes like a free national wireless broadband lifeline. So the FCC must keep moving and deploy what they can as expeditiously as possible.

We've also had to make some compromises on this bill to comply with essential national security issues. As a senior member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, I recognize the essential need to document spectrum use and prevent channel hoarding, and as the Chair of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence's Subcommittee on Intelligence Community Management, my views are likewise shaped by the need to safeguard channels that our intelligence, security and military agencies may need in the future. Our very lives may depend upon it.

I believe this bill finds that happy medium. It will spur economic growth and innovation while keeping America safe. The FCC and NTIA can review our spectrum assets in a judicial manner and develop informational resources that will guide us as we implement the National Broadband Plan.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

Mr. SPACE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3125, the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act.

H.R. 3125 represents an important step toward making additional spectrum available for advanced wireless services, something that has been cited as critical by the Federal Communications Commission in its recently released National Broadband Plan. If we are to realize the National Broadband Plan's vision of providing every American with the ability to access the Internet at world-class speeds, we absolutely will need to make additional spectrum available for that purpose. A thoughtful inventory of existing spectrum holdings will give Congress, the FCC, and the Administration the information we all need to make informed judgments about where that additional spectrum may come from.

As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee and as a cosponsor of this measure, I commend Chairman WAXMAN, Ranking Member BARTON, Subcommittee Chairman BOUCHER, and Ranking Member STEARNS for their work on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. Speaker, many communities in Vermont remain on the wrong side of the digital divide—sidelined in a nation that increasingly demands high-speed Internet access to engage socially, politically and economically. I believe that unused spectrum will be part of that solution, and accounting for that spectrum is the first step. We can't afford to ignore this opportunity to connect millions of people—especially in rural and low-income communities.

In addition to connecting our most rural and disadvantaged communities, wireless spectrum has the potential to greatly impact our nation's competitiveness. As access to wireless technologies becomes more widespread, we are already seeing 3G transmission speeds being surpassed by newer fourth generation (4G) offerings. 4G wireless services offer increased speed but also require considerably more spectrum than their predecessors.

To quickly and efficiently address these concerns, a bipartisan effort has been launched in Congress. H.R. 3125, the Radio Spectrum Inventory Act, would direct the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and the FCC to create and maintain an inventory of each radio spectrum band of frequencies used in the United States to better assess the underutilized bands. H.R. 3125 sets a deadline of two years after enactment for the first inventory and four years for the first report recommending which spectrum should be reallocated for wireless broadband.

Passage of this bill will ensure that the U.S. wireless industry will be in an excellent position to meet the ever growing and evolving needs of individuals and business users, while fostering further economic growth and American competitiveness. This is an issue of national importance and one that must be addressed now. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bipartisan effort by voting in support of H.R. 3125.

Mr. BOUCHER. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BOUCHER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3125, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. BROUN of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

AUTHORIZING USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR KING KAMEHAMEHA CELEBRATION

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Con. Res. 243) authorizing the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for an event to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 243

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. USE OF EMANCIPATION HALL FOR EVENT TO CELEBRATE BIRTHDAY OF KING KAMEHAMEHA.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center is authorized to be used for an event on June 6, 2010, to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha.

(b) PREPARATIONS.—Physical preparations for the conduct of the ceremony described in subsection (a) shall be carried out in accordance with such conditions as may be prescribed by the Architect of the Capitol.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BRADY) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous matter in the RECORD on H. Con. Res. 243.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution authorizes the use of Emancipation Hall in the Capitol Visitor Center for the birthday celebration of King Kamehameha, the first King of Hawaii. This annual celebration honors the first King of Hawaii who successfully unified the islands to establish for the first time a unified Kingdom of Hawaii in 1810.

The first King Kamehameha Day was celebrated in Hawaii on June 11, 1872. This State holiday is a celebration of the rich history and the culture of Hawaii.

This resolution allows for a Sunday ceremony on June 6, 2010, so it will not disrupt the use of the CVC or tours of the Capitol.

I urge Members to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am also pleased to support this resolution authorizing the use of the Emancipation Hall to celebrate the birthday of King Kamehameha of Hawaii. I think many of us have read all about this distinguished individual and the history, so it's altogether appropriate that the king, often known as Kamehameha the Great, is really, indeed, a legendary figure in Hawaiian culture and history and rightly so. He fought heroically for its unity and independence at the end of the 18th and beginning of the 19th centuries.

His law or Rule of the Splintered Paddle protecting noncombatants during wartime has been heralded for its

“(i) is a member of a recognized religious sect or division thereof, and

“(ii) is an adherent of established teachings or tenets that do not permit the use of magnetic media.”.

SEC. 103. ACCELERATE INTEREST ON REFUNDS FOR RETURNS FILED ELECTRONICALLY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (e) of section 6611 (relating to disallowance of interest on certain overpayments) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) SPECIAL RULE.—In the case of any individual income tax return relating to income tax filed by electronic means, paragraph (1) shall be applied by substituting ‘30 days’ for ‘45 days’ each place it appears.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by subsection (a) shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2011.

TITLE II—COLLECTION

SEC. 201. STUDY ON THE EFFECTIVENESS OF COLLECTION ALTERNATIVES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall conduct a study to assess the effectiveness of collection alternatives, especially offers-in-compromise, on long-term tax compliance. Such a study shall analyze a group of taxpayers who applied for offers-in-compromise 5 or more years ago and compare the amount of revenue collected from the taxpayers whose offers were accepted with the amount of revenue collected from the taxpayers whose offers were rejected, and compare, among the taxpayers whose offers were rejected, the amount they offered with the amounts collected.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit a report to Congress containing the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

SEC. 202. REPEAL OF PARTIAL PAYMENT REQUIREMENT ON SUBMISSIONS OF OFFERS-IN-COMPROMISE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7122 is amended by striking subsection (c) and by redesignating subsections (d), (e), (f), and (g) as subsection (c), (d), (e), and (f), respectively.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Paragraph (3) of section 7122(d) is amended—

(A) by inserting “and” at the end of the subparagraph (A),

(B) by striking “, and” at the end of subparagraph (B) and inserting a period, and

(C) by striking subparagraph (C).

(2) Subsection (f) of section 6159 is amended by striking “section 7122(e)” and inserting “section 7122(d)”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to offers submitted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE III—TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE AND PROTECTION IMPROVEMENTS

SEC. 301. REFERRALS TO LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER CLINICS PERMITTED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 7526 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(6) TREASURY EMPLOYEES PERMITTED TO REFER TAXPAYERS TO QUALIFIED LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER CLINICS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, officers and employees of the Department of the Treasury may refer taxpayers for advice and assistance to qualified low-income taxpayer clinics receiving funding under this section.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to referrals made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 302. LOW-INCOME TAXPAYER CLINICS.

(a) INCREASE IN AUTHORIZED GRANTS.—Paragraph (1) of section 7526(c) (relating to aggregate limitation) is amended by striking “\$6,000,000” and inserting “\$20,000,000”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 7526(c)(5) is amended by inserting “qualified” before “low-income”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to grants made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 303. EITC OUTREACH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 32 (relating to earned income) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(n) NOTIFICATION OF POTENTIAL ELIGIBILITY FOR CREDIT AND REFUND.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—To the extent possible and on an annual basis, the Secretary shall provide to each taxpayer who—

“(A) for any preceding taxable year for which credit or refund is not precluded by section 6511, and

“(B) did not claim the credit under subsection (a) but may be allowed such credit for any such taxable year based on return or return information (as defined in section 6103(b)) available to the Secretary,

notice that such taxpayer may be eligible to claim such credit and a refund for such taxable year.

“(2) NOTICE.—Notice provided under paragraph (1) shall be in writing and sent to the last known address of the taxpayer.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 304. TAXPAYER NOTIFICATION OF SUSPECTED IDENTITY THEFT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 77 (relating to miscellaneous provisions), as amended by this Act, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 7529. NOTIFICATION OF SUSPECTED IDENTITY THEFT.

“If, in the course of an investigation under the internal revenue laws, the Secretary determines that there was or may have been an unauthorized use of the identity of the taxpayer or a dependent of the taxpayer, the Secretary shall, to the extent permitted by law—

“(1) as soon as practicable and without jeopardizing such investigation, notify the taxpayer of such determination, and

“(2) if any person is criminally charged by indictment or information with respect to such unauthorized use, notify such taxpayer as soon as practicable of such charge.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for chapter 77 is amended by adding at the end the following new item:

“Sec. 7529. Notification of suspected identity theft.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to determinations made after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 305. CLARIFICATION OF IRS UNCLAIMED REFUND AUTHORITY.

Paragraph (1) of section 6103(m) (relating to tax refunds) is amended by inserting “, and through any other means of mass communication,” after “media”.

SEC. 306. STUDY ON DELIVERY OF TAX REFUNDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Taxpayer Advocate shall conduct a study on the feasibility of delivering tax refunds on debit cards, prepaid cards, and other electronic means to assist individuals that do not have access to financial accounts or institutions.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Taxpayer Advocate shall submit a report to Congress containing the results of the study conducted under subsection (a).

SEC. 307. STUDY ON TIMELY PROCESSING AND USE OF INFORMATION RETURNS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall conduct a study on the ad-

ministrative and legislative changes that would be needed to receive and process information returns before processing income tax returns.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate containing the results of the study conducted under subsection (a), together with such recommendations as the Secretary considers necessary or appropriate for implementation of these changes.

SEC. 308. STUDY ON EASING THE BURDEN OF IN-PERSON TAX PAYMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall conduct a study on how to reduce the number of taxpayers making payments at IRS Taxpayer Assistance Centers. The report shall include an analysis of—

(1) whether the Federal Tax Deposit Coupon (Form 8109) could be expanded so that it can be used with all Federal tax deposits and payments, and

(2) what current or new return filing, payment, and proof of payment options could be implemented to reduce the burden of in-person payments.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate containing the results of the study conducted under subsection (a), together with such recommendations as the Secretary considers necessary or appropriate.

TITLE IV—REVENUE PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. EXPANSION OF BAD CHECK PENALTY TO ELECTRONIC PAYMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 6657 (relating to bad checks) is amended by adding at the end the following: “Except as otherwise provided by the Secretary, any authorization of a payment by commercially acceptable means (within the meaning of section 6311) shall be treated for purposes of this section in the same manner as a check.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply to authorizations of payments made after December 31, 2010.

SEC. 402. INCREASE IN INFORMATION RETURN PENALTIES.

(a) FAILURE TO FILE CORRECT INFORMATION RETURNS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsections (a)(1), (b)(1)(A), and (b)(2)(A) of section 6721 are each amended by striking “\$50” and inserting “\$100”.

(2) AGGREGATE ANNUAL LIMITATION.—Subsections (a)(1), (d)(1)(A), and (e)(3)(A) of section 6721 are each amended by striking “\$250,000” and inserting “\$1,500,000”.

(b) REDUCTION WHERE CORRECTION WITHIN 30 DAYS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 6721(b)(1) is amended by striking “\$15” and inserting “\$30”.

(2) AGGREGATE ANNUAL LIMITATION.—Subsections (b)(1)(B) and (d)(1)(B) of section 6721 are each amended by striking “\$75,000” and inserting “\$250,000”.

(c) REDUCTION WHERE CORRECTION ON OR BEFORE AUGUST 1.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subparagraph (A) of section 6721(b)(2) is amended by striking “\$30” and inserting “\$60”.

(2) AGGREGATE ANNUAL LIMITATION.—Subsections (b)(2)(B) and (d)(1)(C) of section 6721 are each amended by striking “\$150,000” and inserting “\$500,000”.

(d) AGGREGATE ANNUAL LIMITATIONS FOR PERSONS WITH GROSS RECEIPTS OF NOT MORE THAN \$5,000,000.—Paragraph (1) of section 6721(d) is amended—

(1) by striking “\$100,000” in subparagraph (A) and inserting “\$500,000”,

(2) by striking “\$25,000” in subparagraph (B) and inserting “\$75,000”, and

(3) by striking “\$50,000” in subparagraph (C) and inserting “\$200,000”.

(e) PENALTY IN CASE OF INTENTIONAL DISREGARD.—Paragraph (2) of section 6721(e) is amended by striking “\$100” and inserting “\$250”.

(f) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—Section 6721 is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(f) ADJUSTMENT FOR INFLATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—For each fifth calendar year beginning after 2012, each of the dollar amounts under subsections (a), (b), (d) (other than paragraph (2)(A) thereof), and (e) shall be increased by such dollar amount multiplied by the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) determined by substituting ‘calendar year 2011’ for ‘calendar year 1992’ in subparagraph (B) thereof.

“(2) ROUNDING.—If any amount adjusted under paragraph (1)—

“(A) is not less than \$75,000 and is not a multiple of \$500, such amount shall be rounded to the next lowest multiple of \$500, and

“(B) is not described in subparagraph (A) and is not a multiple of \$10, such amount shall be rounded to the next lowest multiple of \$10.”.

(g) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to information returns required to be filed on or after January 1, 2011.

SEC. 403. BUDGET COMPLIANCE.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the Committee on the Budget of the House of Representatives, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. BOUSTANY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the bill, H.R. 4994.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Georgia?

There was no objection.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is April 15, the day Americans will file their income tax returns. The IRS will receive nearly 150 million tax returns this year and issue over 100 million refunds. We know that taxpayers do not enjoy preparing tax returns. The tax laws can be complicated and difficult. We do, however, thank them for complying with the laws; and today, with this bill, we will try to ease some of the burden.

On this day, the House is considering the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010. I am pleased that this bill contains proposals supported by the administra-

tion, the National Taxpayer Advocate, and Members of the House from both sides of the aisle.

This bill has over a dozen provisions that will help taxpayers. It will help taxpayers who are struggling in this economy by making it easy to enter into payment options with the IRS. It will also help low-income taxpayers by improving the IRS services that are available to them, and it will help small businesses and nonprofit organizations by relaxing the record-keeping requirements for cell phones that they provide to their employees.

This bill addresses issues that have been raised in hearings of the Ways and Means Subcommittee on Oversight, which I chair, and in legislation introduced by other Members of the House.

Many of the provisions in this bill enjoy broad bipartisan support. Today, in recognition of taxpayers, the Congress will look beyond what divides us and respond to the needs of our taxpayers. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in passing this good and necessary piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

(Mr. BOUSTANY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4994. This legislation contains provisions that will make tax season a little easier for many American families; and, therefore, it's worthy of my support.

There are some good, bipartisan ideas in this bill. For example, it makes sense to shield employees from burdensome paperwork requirements when they use their employer-provided cell phones to call their spouses to see if they need to pick up milk on the way home. Our colleague from Texas, SAM JOHNSON, introduced that legislation and at last count it has over 200 cosponsors from both parties.

This bill also includes bipartisan legislation that Chairman LEWIS and I introduced to make it easier for taxpayers to enter into offers and compromise with the IRS.

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I am glad that our legislation was included in the bill, and I appreciate Chairman LEWIS reaching out to me in a bipartisan manner to find ways to make it easier for taxpayers and the IRS to resolve their disputes amicably.

This bill instructs the IRS to notify taxpayers when it discovers evidence that those taxpayers might be victims of identity theft. For example, when criminals attempt to claim tax refunds in the name of a law-abiding taxpayer, amazingly the IRS does not currently notify taxpayers when it discovers suspicious activity conducted in their names. And this bill includes a study on whether the IRS can provide tax refunds on debit cards. That sounds rea-

sonable to me as it could result in more efficient delivery of tax refunds to taxpayers who need their money right away to pay their bills.

For these reasons and more, I am happy to support this legislation today. But, Mr. Speaker, my support for this legislation does not reduce my disappointment in the antitaxpayer legislation that this majority has enacted into law over the last 15 months, nor does it change my belief that we could do much more for hardworking taxpayers.

If we really wanted to do some good for taxpayers today, we might eliminate all the powers given to the IRS under the new health care law, like putting the IRS in charge of enforcing a new requirement that every American family purchase government-approved health insurance; taxing families that don't have government-approved health insurance, at least \$2,000 for a family of four; and if the family doesn't pay a tax, allowing the IRS to impose civil penalties and interest, and even confiscate that family's tax refund.

Mr. Speaker, if we really wanted to do some good for taxpayers today, we could make permanent the important tax relief enacted in 2001 and 2003, which provides relief to every American that pays income taxes and which are set to expire at the end of this year. And we could find a permanent solution to the growing reach of the alternative minimum tax, which threatens to engulf millions of middle class families if Congress fails to act. But this bill does not provide such relief for American taxpayers, and so although I think the bill takes some very positive steps, it also represents a missed opportunity.

I intend to support this bill, Mr. Speaker, but I believe we could have and should have done so much more for hardworking Americans who send us here to conduct the Nation's business and who entrust us with such a large portion of the fruits of their labor.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON), a distinguished member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I would like to thank the Ways and Means chairman for making my commonsense cell phone fix the cornerstone of the Taxpayer Assistance Act of 2010. Members may recognize this provision as a bipartisan bill, H.R. 690, the Mobile Cell Phone Act, which I have introduced with Mr. POMEROY.

As we all know, in today's 24/7 economy, cell phones and BlackBerrys have become the modern version of landline office phones. And yet, unlike landline phones, workers and their employees are supposed to keep detailed call logs

or else they will face the wrath of the IRS. This means a business can lose its deduction while a worker can face taxes for making personal calls. This is just wrong. We don't want to nickel and dime workers for making the occasional personal call from a desk, and we shouldn't for cell phones either.

Times have changed since Congress passed this rule in 1989 when people carried phones in a suitcase. I used to carry one myself when I was in the Air Force, and I could hardly carry it because it was so heavy. They were used by the likes of high-flying corporate executives and cost a small fortune.

Even the IRS gets it that times have changed. In fact, last June, IRS Commissioner Doug Shulman said in his statement, "The passage of time, advances in technology, and the nature of communication in the modern workplace have rendered this law obsolete." There you have it; even the IRS Commissioner believes that this law needs to be changed.

This provision will especially help our Nation's small businesses. According to an NFIB poll, nearly four out of five small businesses use a cell phone for work. Now more than ever we need to stop penalizing our job-creating entrepreneurs with this ridiculous tax rule. Startup small businesses and their employees have better things to do with their time than track each and every call they make, and they shouldn't have to spend time worrying that the IRS will hit them with taxes for personal calls. Even the administration agrees, as they included this proposal in their budget.

So how about let's do away with this outdated, obsolete tax rule once and for all.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, I now yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. ROSKAM), a distinguished member of the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. ROSKAM. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, this is a fine bill, and on face value there are some good elements to the bill. Let me give you a kind of behind-the-curtain look, though, at what could have been.

There was an amendment that was offered in the Ways and Means Committee that I thought was thoughtful. What it was trying to do was ultimately create a sense of fairness for families that find themselves being bumped up into tax brackets just sort of through inflation, essentially. I offered an amendment that would have had the Office of Management and Budget determine the spending growth rate by comparing the previous 2 years' nonsecurity discretionary spending without regard to whether spending was offset. In a nutshell, it would have insulated families and taxpayers from being boosted up into what is known as "bracket creep."

Now, there are some folks that say, well, all this would do is accelerate

deficits and create more of a problem, but if the Federal Government simply lived within its means and followed what President Obama is proposing as it relates to the capping and freezing of nondiscretionary spending, then we wouldn't have this type of problem.

And so, like all speakers I think today were speaking in favor of this bill, but my sense is that we can do better. So my hope, my expectation, and my heartfelt desire is to have a sense of protection, Mr. Speaker, for taxpayers. I think this bill is a little bit of a swing and a miss. I support the underlying bill, but we can clearly do better.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. BOUSTANY. Mr. Speaker, as I stated earlier, this legislation contains provisions that will make April 15 easier for American taxpayers, and so I intend to vote for the bill.

Simplifying the treatment of cell phones used by employees, eliminating the 20 percent down payment requirement for offers in compromise, notifying taxpayers of suspected identity theft, and studying whether there are more efficient ways to get tax refunds into people's hands all makes sense and will make a positive difference in people's lives.

But it's also important to recognize what's not in this bill: Repeal of health care mandates and taxes, protecting taxpayers from automatic tax increases scheduled to go into effect next year, and finding a permanent solution to the ticking time bomb known as the AMT. Hopefully, the majority will listen to the American people and move forward on those priorities so that taxpayers will have an easier time on future tax days.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from North Dakota, a very valuable member of the Ways and Means Committee, just came in, and I yield to him for 1½ minutes.

Mr. POMEROY. I thank the chair for yielding. I have just come from the ongoing committee deliberations taking place now, and I apologize for not being here earlier.

I am here to talk about the cell phone provision of this bill. I am pleased to work with my friend, SAM JOHNSON, on the other side of the aisle in addressing what really is an anachronism in the Tax Code. Maybe at the time this technology was just coming into being this made sense, but presently, to have exhaustive record keeping of every business-provided cell phone out there—especially given basically the unlimited minutes usage plans so common in the marketplace—makes no sense whatsoever.

You know, the longest journey begins with a single step. We've got a long journey ahead of us in terms of simplifying the Tax Code in ways that make it much more sensible and clear, and I

would like to think we can do a lot of this on a bipartisan basis. So let's take this step today on cell phones. Working together across the aisle, let's make this ridiculous requirement go away. Let's end the confusion at the IRS in terms of what they're supposed to do, trying to enforce a provision that is virtually unenforceable and ridiculous. Let's pass this bill, clarify the law, and use this as an example that even in this day and in this place we can work together to make sense of the Tax Code, and let's increase our ambitions from here.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, in closing, I want to thank my good friend and colleague, Dr. BOUSTANY, the ranking member of the subcommittee, and all the members of the committee and all staff on both sides for their help in bringing this bill before the floor.

I fully support H.R. 4994. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote "yes" for this bill.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4994, the "Tax Assistance Act of 2010." With Tax Day around the corner, this Congress is continuing to build on its strong tax cutting record by instituting a series of commonsense tax cuts and credits. Among other things, this bill will require the IRS to pay interest when it sends taxpayer refunds late and end the outdated practice of requiring businesses to keep cumbersome records related to their cell phone use. It will also make Tax Day less stressful in 2011, by allowing the IRS to provide additional help to low income filers.

In addition to the commonsense, pro-business tax cuts found in this bill, this Tax Day, Americans across the country will also be able to enjoy the \$800 billion in tax cuts aimed at working families enacted by this Congress. These include the Recovery Act, the largest health care tax cut in history, and tax credits and accelerated write offs for small businesses. Even Bruce Bartlett, President Reagan's domestic policy advisor, noted that "federal taxes are very considerably lower by every measure since Obama became president."

As Americans file their 2009 income taxes, they may qualify for a series of other generous tax cuts—for example, you could save money for attending college, making energy-saving home improvements, purchasing a home for the first time, or buying a new car. Other benefits being claimed this year include:

The Making Work Pay tax credit—95 percent of working families are already receiving the Recovery Act's Making Work Pay tax credit of \$400 for an individual or \$800 for married couples filing jointly in their 2009 paychecks—and will continue to see these benefits in 2010.

Expanded family tax credits—moderate income families with children may be eligible for an increase in the Earned Income Tax Credit and the additional Child Tax Credit.

Tax-free unemployment benefits—thanks to the Recovery Act, individuals who received unemployment insurance in 2009 do not have to pay taxes on the first \$2,400 of such earnings.

I firmly believe that unemployment benefits should never be taxed and I pledge to work in

the coming tax year to enact legislation that would do away with this tax forever. In the meantime, I will continue to work with my colleagues to enact additional middle class tax cuts, like the Recovery Act and the Tax Assistance Act of 2010. I encourage my colleagues to support the bill.

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the bill, which will make a few small, but important changes to the administration of our tax laws.

There is no question that April 15th is the most feared date on the Calendar. It is viewed with dread for good reason.

The tax code is mind-numbingly confusing. It is a maze of forms and schedules and instructions that turns the simplest tax form into a lengthy challenge and that forces millions of Americans to turn to help, whether from an accountant, a professional tax preparer, or one of the many computer software programs designed for this purpose.

The bill before us does make a few good changes to the code, including a provision long championed by Congressman SAM JOHNSON, a true American hero, that will end the long outdated requirement that employers record and report their employees' personal use of company-provided cell phones and Blackberries.

Another provision worthy of support will require the IRS to notify taxpayers they suspect have been victims of identity theft. That certainly makes sense.

And for those taxpayers who do file their returns electronically, this bill will shorten the time the IRS has to pay refunds before interest accrues. This is a taxpayer friendly provision that will encourage electronic filing, which is both faster and cheaper for the government.

Finally, let me express my thanks to Congressman BECERRA for making some changes to this bill that helped secure my support.

As introduced, the bill would have established a new authorization of up to \$20 million per year to fund Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Centers. The IRS has funded these programs in the past without authorization, which is troubling enough. But of even more concern is the fact that ACORN was a recipient of these funds.

Today, we know how badly ACORN was abusing the public trust, and I do applaud the IRS for heeding our call and canceling those contracts when the extent of ACORN's misconduct came to light.

But I don't yet have confidence that the government will avoid a similar mistake in the future and again fund groups like ACORN. Simply put, Congress should not authorize these grants until we know who will be receiving them and how they will be used.

And so I thank Mr. BECERRA for agreeing to remove this language to allow the Congress to examine the issue more closely.

I urge a "yes" vote on the bill.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4994, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

HONORING THE LIFE OF WILMA PEARL MANKILLER

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1237) honoring the life of Wilma Pearl Mankiller and expressing condolences of the House of Representatives on her passing.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1237

Whereas Wilma was born November 18, 1945, at Hastings Indian Hospital in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, and had her roots planted deep in the rural community of Mankiller Flats in Adair County, Oklahoma, where she spent most of her life;

Whereas at age 10, her family moved to San Francisco as part of the Bureau of Indian Affairs Relocation Program where she lived for two decades before returning to Oklahoma in 1977;

Whereas upon returning to Oklahoma, Wilma found a job as a community coordinator at the Cherokee Nation capital and enrolled in graduate courses at the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville;

Whereas in 1983 Wilma ran for the office of Deputy Chief alongside Ross Swimmer, then Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, and the two won the election and took office in August, 1983;

Whereas on December 5, 1985, Wilma was sworn in to replace Chief Swimmer as Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, making her the first female to hold the office;

Whereas Wilma was formally elected to serve as the first female Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation in 1987, and was overwhelmingly re-elected in 1991;

Whereas during her time as Principal Chief, Wilma focused on education and health care, overseeing the construction of new schools, job-training centers, health clinics, community development, and a award winning housing and water projects in low-income communities;

Whereas over the course of her three terms, Wilma made great strides to reinstate the traditional Cherokee culture and values, especially the role of women, reinvigorating the Cherokee Nation through community development projects where men and women work collectively for the common good;

Whereas during Wilma's tenure she transformed the Nation-to-Nation relationship between the Cherokee Nation and the Federal Government, met with Presidents Reagan, Bush, and Clinton to present critical tribal issues, and co-chaired a national conference between tribal leaders and cabinet members, which helped facilitate the establishment of an Office of Indian Justice within the U.S. Department of Justice;

Whereas upon leaving office Wilma continued her endeavors, serving on several philanthropic boards, including 12 years on the board of trustees of the Ford Foundation, 4 years on the Board of the Ms. Foundation for Women, and 4 years on the board of the Seventh Generation Fund and the board of the Freedom Forum and its subsidiary, the Newseum;

Whereas Wilma presented more than 100 lectures on the challenges facing Native Americans and women in the 21st century and she served as the Wayne Morse Professor at the University of Oregon for the fall semester of 2005 where she taught class on tribal government, law, and life;

Whereas Wilma held Honorary Doctorate Degrees from Yale University, Dartmouth College, Smith College, Mills College, Northern Arizona University, University of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City University, Oklahoma State University, Tulsa University, Drury College, Saint Mary-of-the-Woods College, Rhode Island College, New England University, and Northeastern State University;

Whereas Wilma held many honors, including the Montgomery Fellowship, Dartmouth College; The Chubb Fellowship, Timothy Dwight College, Yale University; San Francisco State University, Hall of Fame; an Francisco State Alumna of the Year (1988), International Women of Distinction Award, Alpha Delta Kappa, Oklahoma Hall of Fame, Oklahoma Women's Hall of Fame, National Women's Hall of Fame, International Women's Forum Hall of Fame, Minority Business Hall of Fame, and she was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom by then President Bill Clinton for her vision and commitment to a brighter future for all Americans;

Whereas Wilma published several works, including "Every Day is a Good Day", Fulcrum Publishing 2004, "Mankiller: A Chief and Her People", co-authored, St. Martin's Press 1993, "A Reader's Companion to the History of Women in the U.S.", co-edited, Houghton-Mifflin 1998, and she contributed to many other publications, including an essay for Native Universe, the inaugural publication of the National Museum of the American Indian;

Whereas upon the announcement of her diagnoses in March of 2010, Wilma offered words of inspiration: "I want my family and friends to know that I am mentally and spiritually prepared for this journey; a journey that all human beings will take at one time or another. I learned a long time ago that I can't control the challenges the Creator sends my way but I can control the way I think about them and deal with them. On balance, I have been blessed with an extraordinarily rich and wonderful life, filled with incredible experiences. And I am grateful to have a support team composed of loving family and friends. I will be spending my time with my family and close friends and engaging in activities I enjoy. It's been my privilege to meet and be touched by thousands of people in my life and I regret not being able to deliver this message personally to so many of you";

Whereas Chief Mankiller's final days were not marred by the impending sorrow of her departure, but glowing reminiscence of her influence in years past; and

Whereas Chief Mankiller passed away in the morning hours of April 6, 2010, at her home in rural Adair County, Oklahoma: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives expresses—

(1) gratitude to Wilma Mankiller for her significant contributions to the Nation, an inspiration to women in Indian Country and across America, and for leaving a profound legacy that will continue to encourage and motivate all who carry on her work; and

(2) deep sorrow at the passing of Chief Mankiller and condolences to her friends and family, especially her husband Charlie and two daughters, Gina and Felicia, as well as the Cherokee Nation and all those who knew her and were touched by her good works.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Oklahoma (Mr. BOREN) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Oklahoma?

There was no objection.

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of a great woman, a lady who has been an inspiration to women and also throughout Indian country, Chief Wilma Pearl Mankiller.

On the morning of April 6, 2010, Chief Wilma Mankiller, the first female leader of the Cherokee Nation, steward of Native American cultural traditions, and an advocate for advancing the role of women in tribal affairs, passed away at her home in rural Adair County, Oklahoma.

Chief Mankiller was a passionate activist for the continued enhancement of native peoples and one of the country's most visible American Indian luminaries. From her birth on November 18, 1945, at the small Hastings Indian Hospital in Tahlequah, Oklahoma, to her service as Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation, Wilma celebrated and nurtured her intense tribal heritage which was deeply rooted in a connection to the rural community of Mankiller Flats, Adair County, where she spent a large part of her life.

As an accomplished social activist for Indian prosperity, she devoted all her energies to the well-being of Native Americans and to expanding roles for women through her participation in organizations like the Ford Foundation, the Seventh Generation Fund, and the Freedom Forum. She also reinstated dialogue between the Cherokee Nation and the Federal Government, which ultimately helped establish the Office of Indian Justice.

Wilma received numerous accolades for her tireless efforts at improving the general welfare of both Indian country and our Nation, not the least of which was the Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded to her by President Bill Clinton.

□ 1315

Despite all of her great personal accomplishments, Chief Mankiller desired only "to be remembered as the person who helped us restore faith in ourselves."

To fulfill that wish and to honor her, I have introduced this resolution in gratitude to Chief Wilma Mankiller for her significant contributions and service to the Nation. She remains an inspiration to women in Indian Country and across America, and she leaves be-

hind a profound legacy which will continue to encourage and to motivate all who carry on her work.

Finally, I would like to express our deepest condolences on behalf of the U.S. House of Representatives to her friends and her family, especially to her husband, Charlie Soap, and to the entire Cherokee Nation for the loss of this wonderful lady.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. At this time, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE).

Mr. COLE. I thank the gentlewoman.

Mr. Speaker, Wilma Mankiller led a remarkable life. As my friend Congressman BOREN so eloquently stated, her beginnings were awfully humble. Frankly, they didn't get much better for a long time. She traveled to California, and unlike a lot of Oklahomans, did not find the prosperity that so many had found, so she returned home and went to work for the Cherokee Nation. For over a decade, she worked through a succession of posts of increasing responsibility. Eventually, she became, of course, the principal chief of the second largest Indian tribe in America, the first woman to do so and arguably the best leader the tribe has had since its removal from North Carolina to Oklahoma.

During her tenure as chief, she more than tripled the number of Cherokees. She doubled tribal employment. She added dozens of programs in nutrition, social services, education, and cultural awareness. Frankly, she made the Cherokee Nation even more than it was—a force to be reckoned with, but a beneficent force, not only in northeast Oklahoma, not only within the lives of its citizens, but, quite frankly, in Indian Country and in American politics.

She was recognized for her extraordinary achievements over a lifetime—honorary degrees, boards and foundations and, of course, again, as my colleague and friend Mr. BOREN mentioned, the highest civilian award that any American can receive, the Medal of Freedom.

I knew Wilma Mankiller very well. She led a life based on principles. The first one was just absolute personal integrity. She was one of the most honest and honorable people I had ever met in my life. The second was humility. She was the most approachable person you would ever want to know. She had a total lack of pretension, and she believed very profoundly in service to others—in service, yes, to her tribe; in service, yes, to Native Americans; but in service beyond, as a creed and as a value, that she lived and acted on every single day of her life.

She was a remarkable person to talk to because she was completely candid in her conversations, which is very unusual, particularly for a political figure. If you are chief of the Cherokee Nation, I can assure you, you are a considerable and skillful politician in your own right. On many occasions, I re-

member getting advice, and I remember her speaking in a very unvarnished way. I can't count the number of times that I heard her say in speeches when she got up—she loved to speak truth to power—that she identified herself: either I am or have been the principal chief of the Cherokee Nation. If the United States Government had had its way, I would never have been a chief; there would never have been a Cherokee Nation or it would have ended, and also tribes would have been eliminated. That is where she began her conversation.

She was a role model, of course, to women and to Native Americans everywhere, particularly to my mother, who was the first Native American elected to the State Senate in Oklahoma. She was a close friend of Chief Mankiller's. Like me, my mother admired her quite profoundly.

As a leader, she was always principled; she was determined; she was visionary, but she was supremely practical in her political pursuits. She was tough; she was shrewd; she was dedicated to the Cherokee people, and she was dedicated to Native Americans. She was an extraordinarily fierce defender of the concept of tribal sovereignty. She understood it in her bones; she advocated it and, frankly, enhanced it, not only for her own people but for Native Americans everywhere.

Having said that, she was always willing to partner with anyone. It didn't matter what your point of view was. It didn't matter what your values were. She was a very devoted Democrat. My mother was a very fierce Republican. They found common ground again and again on issue after issue.

In closing, I want to join my friend Mr. BOREN in expressing my profound sympathy to her family, obviously to the great Cherokee Nation and to Native Americans everywhere. I mean this with all sincerity that I have not seen her like before in my life. I don't think any of us will see her like again.

Mr. BOREN. At this time, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

I want to thank both of my colleagues from Oklahoma for this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I had the great honor of working with Chief Wilma Mankiller in my service on the Resources Committee and as Chair of that committee. She was a magnificent person, and we honor her as one of the great women in American history. She was all of the things that my colleagues have said, but when she came through your door, you knew you were about to do business. She was also very quick to humor and very often would use humor as well as she would use knowledge in disarming those who opposed her.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. BOREN. I yield the gentleman an additional 30 seconds.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I had a real opportunity to work integrally with her on the issues of sovereignty at a time when the Supreme Court was attacking at that moment some very essential parts of tribal sovereignty.

I am sorry to hear of her passing; but I have great, great memories of working with her, of her leadership, of her advocacy, of her passion, and of her running so true to her values no matter what the situation. If she couldn't succeed today, she'd be back tomorrow. Very often, she was.

Thank you again so very much for this resolution, which recognizes the contributions of this outstanding woman to the history of our country.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution, which honors the life of Wilma Mankiller, and I wish to associate myself with the remarks of the previous speakers in expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives on her passing.

There are many of us who did not have the opportunity to meet Wilma Mankiller. Nonetheless, as we deal with Indian affairs in Congress, all of us touch some part of the legacy of her accomplishments left to the great Cherokee Nation and Indian Country.

In a recent article on her death, Cherokee Chief Chad Smith states that she was a patriot for the Cherokee Nation. In 1998, she received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Bill Clinton in recognition for her success as an Indian leader.

Though Wilma Mankiller is further honored today by the House resolution, what stands out is the outpouring of grief from the Cherokee citizens upon hearing the news of her death. I think her greatest honor is the esteem and respect in which she was held by her fellow Cherokee people.

I commend the gentleman from Oklahoma for sponsoring this resolution and for ensuring its consideration on the House floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, just a few closing comments. I have a quote from the President of the United States, Barack Obama:

"I am deeply saddened to hear of the passing of Wilma Mankiller today. As the Cherokee Nation's first female chief, she transformed the Nation-to-Nation relationship between the Cherokee Nation and the Federal Government, and served as an inspiration to women in Indian Country and across America. A recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, she was recognized for her vision and commitment to a brighter future for all Americans. Her legacy will continue to encourage and motivate all who carry on her work."

"Michelle and I offer our condolences to Wilma's family, especially her husband, Charlie, and two daughters Gina

and Felicia, as well as the Cherokee Nation, and all those who knew her and were touched by her good works."

I would just like to say I knew Wilma as a young boy. I got to meet Wilma through many festivals and pow-wows with my father when he served in the U.S. Senate. She was always so kind, and she was always lending advice to me. Then after I was elected to Congress—and Congressman COLE was very correct—the term I would say is "blunt"—she was very blunt in her political advice. She would call me whenever something would happen within the Cherokee Nation or here in Congress and would give me some advice, very direct advice, and she was always right in her advice. We are going to miss her deeply.

So, in closing, I would ask my colleagues to support this resolution to honor this great woman.

Ms. RICHARDSON. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Native American Caucus, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 1237, a resolution recognizing and honoring the life of Wilma Pearl Mankiller. Chief Mankiller was an ardent advocate for the Native American community and an inspiration to the rest of the nation, and I am proud to support this resolution honoring her.

I would like to thank Congressman BOREN for authoring this important resolution, and House Majority Leader STENY HOYER and Speaker NANCY PELOSI for their skill and leadership in bringing it to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, Chief Wilma Mankiller inspired Native American women and girls across the United States when she became principal chief of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, the second largest tribe in the United States. Born November 18, 1945 on family land at Mankiller Flats near Rocky Mountain, Oklahoma, she attended San Francisco University, where she became an activist for Native American causes. Chief Mankiller's political career began when she was elected deputy chief of the Cherokee Nation in 1983, before becoming principal chief in 1985.

This accomplishment gave her the opportunity and platform to become an unyielding activist for the continued enhancement of the indigenous population. She was successful in establishing tribally owned businesses, such as horticultural operations, improving infrastructure, and building a hydroelectric facility. In addition to this important work, she also advocated for Native American and women's issues by improving federal and tribal negotiations, as well as through her participation in organizations like the Ford Foundation, the Seventh Generation Fund, and the Freedom Forum. Because of her tireless efforts towards improving the general welfare of Native Americans, Chief Mankiller has received numerous awards, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this resolution honoring the life and accomplishments of this extraordinary woman. Her work and dedication have improved the lives of Native Americans across the country, as well as given Americans across the country a better understanding of the Native American community.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H. Res. 1237.

Mr. BOREN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. BOREN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1237.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING COAL MINERS FROM UPPER BIG BRANCH MINE IN WEST VIRGINIA

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1236) honoring the coal miners who perished in the Upper Big Branch Mine-South in Raleigh County, West Virginia, extending condolences to their families and recognizing the valiant efforts of emergency response workers at the mine disaster.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1236

Whereas coal mining is a time-honored profession and miners and their families have shaped the history and rich culture of West Virginia and the Nation;

Whereas the Nation is greatly indebted to coal miners for the difficult and dangerous work they perform to provide the fuel needed to keep the Nation strong and secure;

Whereas the Nation has long recognized the importance of health and safety protections for miners who labor in extreme and dangerous conditions;

Whereas accidents in the Nation's mines have again and again taken the lives of coal miners;

Whereas 29 West Virginia miners tragically perished in the Upper Big Branch Mine-South following an explosion on April 5, 2010;

Whereas this was the worst coal mining disaster in the Nation over the last 40 years;

Whereas Federal, State, and local rescue crews worked tirelessly night and day in courageous rescue and recovery efforts;

Whereas the families of the fallen miners have suffered immeasurable loss; and

Whereas residents of Raleigh County and throughout West Virginia came together to support the miners' families: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) recognizes the ultimate sacrifice made by the 29 coal miners lost at the Upper Big Branch Mine-South, Raleigh County, West Virginia;

(2) extends the deepest condolences of the Nation to the families of these men;

(3) recognizes all coal miners for enduring the loss of their coworkers and maintaining courage throughout this ordeal;

(4) commends the rescue crews for their valiant efforts to find these miners; and

(5) honors the many volunteers who provided support and comfort for the miners' families during the rescue and recovery operations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on House Resolution 1236 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. At this time, I yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL).

Mr. RAHALL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman GEORGE MILLER.

Mr. Speaker, last week, on Monday, April 5, an explosion tore through the Upper Big Branch Mine in Raleigh, West Virginia, taking the lives of 29 good, hardworking men. It was the repeat of a recurring nightmare that has haunted the coalfields of our Nation for generations, and it is a tragedy that never should have occurred.

Immediately upon receiving news of the explosion at the Upper Big Branch Mine, I rushed to the scene to be with the families. For me, it was, unfortunately, not an unfamiliar circumstance. I have spent too many anxious hours within the aftermath of mine accidents in the midst of family and friends, of coworkers and survivors, awaiting word. The watching, hoping and praying for survivors to emerge from the darkness into the arms of their loved ones is a heart-wrenching exercise, but being surrounded by such warmth and love, generosity and faith is heartwarming at the same time.

The people of coal mining communities, in particular those of southern West Virginia, are a special breed. Generations of these families go into our mines. For so many of these miners, it is not a job; it is a calling. They live with the knowledge that there is risk, but they are proud to take that risk to labor in the company of good and loyal friends, to earn an honest paycheck in order to provide for their families and for themselves.

The miners at Upper Big Branch were just such men. Like coal miners throughout the ages, they did difficult work in dangerous circumstances. They labored underground in cramped conditions in the damp and the dark, but outside the mines, their lives were full of light and love and joy. They had wives and children and grandchildren. They hunted, pranked and laughed together, and they experienced many warm memories and gentle sorrows. While most Americans can scarcely imagine what a coal miner's day at work is really like or will never really understand our coal miners, we certainly appreciate what their labors have meant in our daily lives.

The toil of these coal miners, of all coal miners, has fueled our Nation's economic engine, ensuring our military security by providing coal not just to the generation of power but as an essential element in the steelmaking process. All coal miners are deserving of our gratitude and of our renewed commitment to ensure that such tragedies never occur again.

Countless individuals can be thanked for their help during this disaster. I thank our Governor, Joe Manchin, III, for his leadership; both of our U.S. Senators, JAY ROCKEFELLER and ROBERT C. BYRD; our Secretary of Labor, Hilda Solis, who twice visited us during this week; her assistant secretary for Mine Safety and Health Administration, Joe Main, there every day and night; Ron Wooten, our West Virginia division Mine Safety and Health training director; Jimmy Gianato, director of our West Virginia Homeland Security. Both of these individuals were there every day and night, 24/7, for an entire week. I thank our West Virginia head coach, Bobby Huggins, for his uplifting visit to the families.

By all accounts, the explosion that took the lives of these 29 miners should never have happened in this time, in this modern era.

To quote the Mine Safety and Health Administration's administrator for coal mine safety and health, Kevin Stricklin, who fought every hour, 24 hours a day, to help find our coal miners, "All explosions are preventable. It's just making sure you have things in place to keep one from occurring. It's quite evident that something went very wrong here."

□ 1330

There are multiple layers of laws and regulations in place to prevent such a disaster. There are modern technologies. There were repeated, persistent inspections. And yet 29 men perished and one is hanging on in the hospital. That this deadly explosion occurred is infuriatingly, frustratingly heartbreaking, and I am determined that we will get to the bottom of it and ensure that steps are taken to prevent a recurrence of this type of explosion. We owe it to the miners who perished in Raleigh County last week. We owe it to their families. We owe it to their coworkers.

So many strong and tough West Virginians came together to pray and to help these families. Our West Virginia State Police stood by every family's side to help in any way they could. The American Red Cross, Billy Graham's Crusade, family members of previous mine disaster victims, and most importantly, our ministers, our pastors, our West Virginia Council of Churches, all who came from all over our great State to counsel, to cry, and to call upon God, who above all else will guide these families through this healing process.

With that inner strength that comes to the West Virginia people, we will get through this tragedy together. We will

hold accountable those who failed our miners, so help me God.

Today the House of Representatives honors the 29 miners lost in Raleigh County last week. We express the condolences of our Nation to their families, and we recognize above all the valiant efforts of the rescue workers, those who placed their lives on the line to save other lives, who answered the call the other day. Our first responders, our paramedics, our law enforcement personnel all came together.

May the Good Lord keep our lost miners, may He care for their families, and bless those rescue personnel who risked their own lives in service to others. And may He watch over each and every coal miner who continues to work and continues to walk in the wake of risk in service to our Nation.

Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Every day thousands of men and women go to work in coal mines to bring electricity to our homes to make our lives easier, more comfortable. The working conditions for these miners are anything but comfortable or easy. I rise today to honor their work, and sadly, the sacrifice of 29 men last Monday in the Upper Big Branch Mine.

This resolution offers our condolences to these miners' families as well as the Nation mourns with them. It is also a time to pledge that we will work with the Federal agencies tasked to investigate this accident, determine the cause, and take the appropriate actions.

On Monday, April 5, we watched as mine rescue teams and mine safety officials descended on Whitesville, West Virginia, to go into the Upper Big Branch Mine. The frustration was apparent as rescue teams attempted to reach refuge chambers that night, but were unable to proceed far enough into the mine because of the dangerous levels of gases. Mourning began for seven families who knew immediately that their loved ones were killed by the blast. And then the agonizing waiting began.

For a week, families waited for news of those who might have made it to safety and those who had not. Four missing miners had the slightest hope that they were safely barricaded in a chamber. The miracle that we hoped for did not happen.

We cannot, however, forget the tireless efforts of the mine rescue teams and the government officials who worked around the clock to reach those trapped. Mine rescue teams volunteer their time to train for the unthinkable, to put themselves in harm's way. The burden of recovery falls on these miners as they try to bring closure to the families by bringing their loved ones home one more time. We honor their courage in these very trying circumstances.

I urge my colleagues to vote "aye" on House Resolution 1236, mourning the loss of miners in the Upper Big

Branch Mine, and honoring those participating in the rescue and the recovery operations.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN).

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding, and I thank him also for his leadership on mine safety and workplace safety.

Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank the sponsor of this resolution, my colleague from West Virginia's Third Congressional District, NICK RAHALL. Coal miners and the coal industry have no greater champion than the chairman of the Natural Resources Committee, Chairman RAHALL.

Mr. Speaker, tragedy has visited West Virginia's coal mines again. It is a visitor our State knows all too well. The names of the communities change with each visit, and the years do as well. Monongah in 1907, Dola in 1963, Farmington in 1968, Sago in 2006, and now Raleigh County, April 2010. The names change, Mr. Speaker, but the grief and the sorrow, they stay exactly the same. The mother who lost her son last week is united with the sister who lost her brother in 1968 and the daughter who lost her father in 1907.

Mr. Speaker, shy of 2 million people live in my State. Maybe one in 90 earns a living as a coal miner in the coal fields. Most West Virginians have never been underground, and most never will be. But every one of us lives with the knowledge and the full appreciation of what can go wrong whenever a new shift of miners goes underground. Coal mining is not just my State's most important industry, it is central to our culture and our social identity. When tragedy visits one of our communities, it visits our entire State. It brings us together. It reminds us in sometimes a difficult life we can always look to that larger community for support.

We saw those bonds in the rescue crews last week battling fatigue and risking their lives. We see those bonds in the volunteers on-site in Raleigh County today. And we see those bonds in the churches and the union halls and the schools throughout the State, wherever West Virginians come together.

There is hard work ahead of us and there is pragmatic work ahead of us. The engineers and the experts, they will come and they will analyze what went wrong in Raleigh County last week. This Congress will debate what went wrong last week. We will assign responsibility. And we will consider what actions are necessary to make the hard work of taking coal from the ground less dangerous, to do all that is possible to prevent such future tragedies. That will be the most lasting testimonial we can offer those who lost their lives in Raleigh County.

But today we acknowledge their loss, we thank those who tried to save them, we offer our deepest condolences to the

miners' families, and we come together again in support of our community.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KLINE), the ranking member of the Education and Labor Committee.

Mr. KLINE of Minnesota. I thank the gentlelady for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues to honor the memory of the 29 miners who lost their lives in the Upper Big Branch Mine, and to express our gratitude to the rescue teams who bravely pursued a tragic recovery mission. The Nation watched in collective apprehension last week as mine rescue teams rushed from the coal fields of Appalachia to the small town of Whitesville to help their own. For a week we all clung to the hope that four missing miners might have found refuge. It was not to be.

Over the weekend, the mine rescue teams performed a more solemn duty, bringing these men out of the mine one final time. Under the best conditions mining is dangerous work. After an explosion the mines are even more treacherous. Mine rescue teams undertake rigorous training and exercise valiant resolve. Today we recognize their bravery in the face of danger and tragedy. H. Res. 1236 honors their commitment to service.

Chairman MILLER has announced our intention to investigate this tragedy and seek answers on behalf of the families and the entire mining community. Our focus must be to determine what caused this devastating loss so we can prevent it from ever happening again.

The cameras have gone elsewhere and this tragedy has faded from the hourly broadcasts. For the families, however, the devastation of the Upper Big Branch Mine will never disappear. With this resolution we offer our condolences, we honor their loved ones, and we pledge our commitment to get to the bottom of this.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 3 minutes.

As my colleagues have recounted, on Monday, April 5, an explosion rocked the Upper Big Branch Coal Mine in Montcoal, West Virginia, killing 29 miners and injuring others. This was the worst mine disaster in the United States in almost four decades. For over two centuries, millions of West Virginians' livelihoods have depended on extracting the State's richest coal deposits.

Coal has left an indelible mark on the communities throughout West Virginia and Appalachia. For many of these communities, the mine may be the only way to earn a decent living. These miners are proud of their work and their contribution to the American economy. Coal is in their blood, it is in their tradition, and it is their career.

But we also know that underground mining is one of the most dangerous jobs in the world. Every day miners show up for their shift knowing that

there is a chance that they may not return to their families, yet they show up every day. At 3:30 p.m., during the shift change, a massive explosion ripped through the Upper Big Branch Mine and took the lives of 29 miners and sent others to the hospital. While the cause of this tragedy is still under investigation, today we memorialize those 29 miners who perished.

Our Nation sends our deepest condolences to those who have suffered this terrible loss. We extend our heartfelt sympathies to families who have lost a husband, a father, a brother, a son, or more. Those thoughts are with you and your communities in your suffering these devastating losses. These losses will remain long after the headlines fade from national attention.

Today we also recognize the valiant efforts of the many rescue teams, who in many cases traveled long distances and risked their lives in hopes of saving their fellow miners. Many rescuers had to evacuate the mine at least four times as a result of explosive levels of methane gas. These brave men and women, who worked around the clock day after day, have the appreciation of this Congress and this Nation for their selfless efforts.

I would also like to recognize Congressman NICK RAHALL, who grew up in Beckley, West Virginia, only a few miles south of the mine. Congressman RAHALL sponsored this resolution and provided the much-needed rock of support for his constituents during this disaster. Reports have come back to me of his consoling and listening to families, neighbors, and friends in his community. I know how much these families appreciate his support and those efforts.

Over the last few years I have met many families who have suffered similar tragic losses in mining disasters. And what I have learned is that the impacts of these disasters far range what we see in the general society because of the history of these communities, the culture of these communities, the work ethic in these communities. These tragedies spread across in an indelible way with the loss of a single miner.

In the face of these overwhelming tragedies, these families are showing incredible strength and determination. I made a promise to the families of Sago, to Aracoma Alma, to Darby, to Crandall Canyon that we would do everything in our power to uncover the cause of these tragedies and do everything possible to prevent other miners from suffering these similar fates. I want to extend that same promise to these families of Upper Big Branch Mine and to the miners in the community, that we will continue that promise and to get to the bottom of this tragic incident.

They paid the ultimate price in doing the job our Nation depends upon. Every miner who goes to work every day must be able to return home safely to their families at the end of that shift. And Congress has an obligation to ensure that that remains the case.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO).

□ 1345

Mrs. CAPITO. I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my fellow West Virginians and those of us in this Congress in support of today's resolution to extend our condolences to the families of the 29 miners who were killed in last week's mine disaster in Montcoal, West Virginia.

I would like to thank my colleague, Congressman RAHALL, for his steadfast support, his compassion, and his empathy for those in his district who have suffered an unimaginable loss. His strength and compassion was very evident to all of us who watched the activities as they unfolded in Raleigh County.

I would also like to thank our Governor, Governor Manchin. He was a stalwart comforter in chief to many of us because, as my fellow colleagues from West Virginia has said, if one West Virginian suffers, we all suffer.

I would also like to thank the outstanding efforts of the mine rescue teams and the many volunteers who provided their support and prayers.

The accident that occurred at Performance Coal Company's Upper Big Branch mine has taken an immense toll on all West Virginians and left a community shattered, very sad, and very shaken. After 6 days of waiting for any news, rescue workers located the four missing miners and found no survivors. While we were all hoping for a miracle, unfortunately, we were left with the sad conclusion.

Too many families have suffered the tragic loss of losing a loved one in a mine disaster. Last week's explosion was the worst mining disaster in an American mine in 40 years and the third major mining disaster in West Virginia in the last 4 years. An explosion at the Sago mine in my district on January 2, 2006, trapped 13 miners for nearly 2 days. By the grace of God, one miner survived.

We cannot forget the grief and suffering of the families, friends, and co-workers of all the miners who have died. These are deaths that can and must be prevented. The rescue workers were valiant, working around the clock to find their fallen brothers and to help the families in their horrible time of grief.

Following Sago, Congress rightly passed stricter mine safety regulations to enhance inspector programs, improve emergency response, and put in place protections to prevent future mine disasters. To ensure that all mines receive regular inspection, Congress has increased MSHA funding, because MSHA had been unable to meet these mandated responsibilities.

However, new rules and regulations are useless if they are not enforced.

The coal companies must be vigilant and must follow the rules in every case. No excuses. Keeping our miners safe requires a collaborative approach between the regulators and the mining industry. Both must expand their health and safety programs to prevent hazards from starting in the first place. Otherwise, reforms Congress clearly intended to address with the passage of the MINER Act will be rendered meaningless. Congress has a very important oversight role in scrutinizing issues that lead to this disaster.

There must be, and I am sure there will be, a very thorough investigation into this tragedy to determine what further action must be taken to prevent this from ever happening again. I vow to take whatever measures are necessary to ensure the safety and health of our coal miners.

I join today with my colleagues and really the entire Nation to extend our condolences to those families of the lost miners and to the communities surrounding. This is a devastating loss for all of us, and the warmth and prayers that have been sent to those of us living in West Virginia and particularly in the Montcoal area are welcomed and well received.

I ask my colleagues to join me in passing this resolution.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), subcommittee chairman of Workforce Protections.

Ms. WOOLSEY. This resolution rightly honors the 29 courageous coal miners who were senselessly killed in the explosion at the Upper Big Branch mine in Raleigh County, West Virginia, last week; and it supports those family members left behind. Our deepest sympathies go out to these families, and we also hope for the speedy recovery of the two miners who were injured.

Miners, like all working people, are the basis for America's future. And it is true that miners work in a very dangerous profession, but there is absolutely no excuse for a tragedy like this one. We don't know yet the cause of this explosion, but the investigations have begun.

We do know, however, that Massey Energy, the mine owner, was cited for 450 safety violations in the year 2009 for the Upper Big Branch mine. Massey contested most of these citations, keeping the violations in legal limbo and preventing MSHA from establishing a pattern of violations that could have led to a shutdown of the mine; and it could have increased scrutiny of this owner and possibly prevented these disasters.

These appeals filed by the companies like Massey have created a tremendous backlog at the MSHA Review Commission, a backlog that has increased from 1,500 cases in the year 2005 to 16,000 cases today. The Review Commission does not have the resources to resolve a backlog of this size in a timely fashion, so we as Members of Congress im-

mediately must provide the background and the legal authority for more funds to hire more administrative law judges so that we can expedite the appeals process.

In addition to scrutinizing Massey Energy's role in this disaster, we need to look at MSHA's role as well. Is MSHA using all the authority it has under current law to prevent these explosions? Does MSHA need more authority to carry out their mission? As the chair of the Workforce Protection Subcommittee, I will be working closely with Chairman MILLER, with Ranking Member KLINE, and Congresswoman McMORRIS RODGERS and Representative RAHALL and all of the others in this Congress, which is probably 435 of us, knowing that we must take the steps that are necessary to prevent any future mining disasters.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HARE).

Mr. HARE. Mr. Speaker, on April 5, 29 hardworking men—fathers, brothers, sons, and husbands—left home for a day at work. All thought they would return home safely to their families that night, but, sadly, they didn't.

I stand in solidarity with my colleagues from West Virginia and all across this Nation in honoring the 29 coal miners that were lost.

I wish to express my deepest sympathies to each of the families of the workers who perished in the West Virginia mine explosion. I know the loss you have experienced will stay with you forever, and I hope that you can take some solace in knowing that all Americans share in your grief.

I would also like to take this opportunity to express my utmost gratitude to the rescue teams who have so tirelessly and heroically risked their own lives in an effort to save others. Your bravery does not go unnoticed and is appreciated by all Americans.

The explosion at the Upper Big Branch mine was America's worst mining disaster in 40 years, and the toll on all West Virginians has been devastating. It requires us to again ask our colleagues on both sides of the aisle, with four mine disasters in the last 4 years, how many more tragedies have to occur before we start taking mine safety more seriously and implement strong reforms to protect all of our miners?

I ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to work with Chairman MILLER and Chairwoman WOOLSEY to honor these miners through action. While we cannot bring back the men that were lost, we can do more to advance the cause of workplace safety across this country; and we should start by ensuring that MSHA has the tools, the staff, and technology to prevent tragedies such as these. The report yesterday that a computer error prevented Upper Big Branch mine from

being identified as a risk is deeply disturbing and completely and totally unacceptable. All Americans deserve to work in a place that is safe, and we must take whatever steps are necessary to ensure a disaster like this will never happen again.

Again, I want to join my colleagues in expressing my deepest condolences to those affected by this devastating tragedy. I assure each of the affected families and communities that your loss will not be forgotten and the memory of these coal miners will inspire me and my colleagues to take bold action on mine safety.

I thank the gentleman for the time.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL).

Mr. RAHALL. I thank the chairman for yielding.

I rise simply to thank my many colleagues in this body on both sides of the aisle that have expressed their condolences this week in the debate that has just occurred or rather to me personally or in phone calls. I know that my colleague from northern West Virginia, Representative MOLLOHAN, called every day for a status update; and I appreciate the gentlewoman from the Second District, Representative CAPITO's, comments.

But most importantly, Mr. Speaker, I do recognize the work of the distinguished chairman of the Education and Labor Committee, my dear friend GEORGE MILLER. We worked together following previous disasters that have been referenced during this debate, the Sago and Aracoma disasters that occurred in West Virginia as well about 4 years ago.

Reference has been made to the MINERS Act that was passed following past disasters. Many good parts of that were put in place by our operators across the State and were in place at this particular mine. Unfortunately, due to the severe nature of this blast, these features did not have a chance to trigger or to come into play. So something else needs to be done to prevent these disasters.

I salute the chairman again.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

I appreciate the remarks of the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL). But, tragically, we have been through this before. It's clearly the intent of the chair to work with the entire delegation. I tried to state it, maybe not as articulately as I had hoped to, but we fully understand that these tragedies in the mining community are felt across the State. They are felt across the region. The deaths may be isolated, but because of the history and the culture and the economy of these regions, we know that they are felt across the region, and we expect to work with the entire delegation and with the Senate delegation as we try to

uncover what has taken place here with the tragedy that existed.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the Speaker of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the chairman for yielding. I thank him for his leadership on this important issue and the attention that he has called to it over time and the focus that he has had since day one when we learned of this tragedy.

I want to join our colleagues, Chairman RAHALL, in whose district this tragedy occurred, Mr. MOLLOHAN and Mrs. CAPITO to extend condolences to them. Because while this occurred in Mr. RAHALL's district, I know the grief is felt throughout the State of West Virginia as it is being felt throughout our country.

Mr. Speaker, today in towns across Raleigh County, West Virginia, flags are flying at half staff. Their residents are mourning the loss of their fathers, brothers, and sons in last week's deadly mine explosion in Montcoal. Since then, people across our country have cried for them, have joined in the mourning; and today in the Congress we officially join these proud Americans in expressing our deepest condolences for the loss of 29 coal miners, 29 coal miners, in the worst mining accident in four decades.

We do so led by Chairman NICK RAHALL, who has been on the scene of this catastrophe the last 1½ weeks. Congressman RAHALL has prayed with his constituents, and he has consoled them. He has committed to work for better conditions, vigorous oversight of the mining industry, and rigorous enforcement of safety standards for America's mines. In doing so, he has worked with our chairman, Mr. MILLER, in this regard.

As Congressman RAHALL and other West Virginia leaders, including Congressman MOLLOHAN and Congresswoman CAPITO, often remind us, this Nation is indebted to our coal miners for the difficult and dangerous work they do. Their contributions are a rich part of our Nation's history. Their labor makes our way of life possible.

But, last week, 29 families received a phone call that every coal miner's family fears; and as the communities of West Virginia grieved, the Nation grieved with them.

□ 1400

Now, with this tragedy first in our minds, we must redouble our efforts to minimize the risks to our mine workers and to ensure that they can do their jobs without a threat to their well-being.

When this tragedy occurred, I called Mr. RAHALL, and his concerns were very personal about the families who were affected. I called the President of the United Mine Workers, Cecil Roberts, a visionary leader in our country, and his concerns were about the families.

But as we move away from that tragedy, our concern for the families must be reflected in our decisions here and the insistence that we have on upholding standards. We must, as I say, redouble our efforts to minimize the risk to those workers.

Today we acknowledge the brave efforts of their fellow coal miners who were part of the response team and other first responders who worked tirelessly in the hope of rescue and bravely on behalf of recovery.

Mr. Speaker, many of the families who lost miners this week have spoken of their deep faith and how that has comforted them.

On this House floor this morning, we were led in prayer by Bishop Simms from West Virginia, Mr. RAHALL's constituent, and he shared with us how faith can see us all through, especially these families. On this House floor today we join them knowing that 29 brave souls are now in a better place.

Again, our condolences to every member of those families. To the communities, as Mr. Cecil Roberts said to us, we are all one family here in the mining community. I know Mr. RAHALL expressed that sentiment to me as well.

Well, at a time like this it's important for the families of West Virginia and the coal mining community to know that, as a Nation, we are one family with them as well. I hope it is a comfort to them that so many people in our country mourn their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of the time.

I urge support for this resolution which honors the 29 men who perished in the Upper Big Branch Mine. These men were simply doing their job, extracting the coal that powers the Nation.

We recognize the Red Cross workers, volunteers and others in this close-knit community who banded together in a time of tragedy. We commend the rescue teams who went in after their brothers in the hope of bringing them to safety and with a commitment to bringing them home.

And we express our condolences to the family members who lost those that they loved so dearly. It has been said today that West Virginians stand together in times of tragedy. Today we stand together with them.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support this resolution. I thank the gentlewoman for her presentation of this resolution, and for all of those who participated in the debate.

Mr. SPACE. Mr. Speaker, it is with the deepest sadness that I offer my condolences to the families of the 29 brave mineworkers who perished on April 5, 2010. I have been holding these families in my thoughts and my prayers.

For those of us representing Appalachia, this news is particularly saddening. The history

of our region will forever be linked to the mining of coal, a connection for which I hold great pride. For generations, residents of my district have fed their families from work in these mines, as they will for generations to come.

The loss of a miner is the loss of a brother and a friend. This loss cuts deep into the soul of our Appalachian towns and communities.

The deaths of these miners must not be in vain—we must take lessons from this tragedy to create a better future for mineworkers everywhere. The mineworkers of Appalachia deserve to go to work each day with peace of mind that their workplace is safe. Events like those that transpired earlier this month shake that trust, and we must determine the cause of the event if we are to properly ensure their future safety and to ensure the strength of the coal mining industry.

While we are truly blessed to live in a country bestowed with great resources, we hold a responsibility to protect those who risk life and limb to harvest them in the name of a greater, stronger nation. The strength of our Nation is a reflection of how we treat these soldiers of the coal mines, and we all must work to ensure their safety.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1236.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONGRATULATING DUKE UNIVERSITY ON WINNING THE NCAA BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1242) congratulating the Duke University men's basketball team for winning the 2010 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball National Championship.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1242

Whereas on April 5, 2010, the Duke University Blue Devils defeated the Butler University Bulldogs by a score of 61–59 in the finals of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (hereinafter referred to as the “NCAA”) Division I Men's Basketball Tournament in Indianapolis, Indiana;

Whereas the Blue Devils now hold 4 national men's basketball titles, winning NCAA championships in 1991, 1992, 2001, and 2010;

Whereas Blue Devils head coach Mike Krzyzewski improved his record to 868–279, won his 77th NCAA tournament game, the

most in NCAA history, and won his fourth national championship, making him tied with Adolph Rupp for second most championships in NCAA history;

Whereas Coach Krzyzewski and his coaching staff, including Assistant Coaches Chris Collins, Steve Wojciechowski, and Nate James, as well as each manager, trainer, and staff member, deserve praise and credit for helping the Blue Devils reach the pinnacle of college basketball;

Whereas the Blue Devil team roster included seniors Jordan Davidson, Jon Scheyer, Lance Thomas, and Brian Zoubek, juniors Steve Johnson, Casey Peters, Kyle Singler, and Nolan Smith, sophomores Seth Curry and Miles Plumlee, and freshmen Andre Dawkins, Ryan Kelly, Mason Plumlee, and Todd Zafirovski;

Whereas junior Kyle Singler was named the Most Outstanding Player of the Final Four, scoring 19 points and collecting 9 rebounds while playing all 40 minutes in the championship game;

Whereas Blue Devils Jon Scheyer, Kyle Singler, and Nolan Smith were each named to the all-tournament team;

Whereas during the 2009–2010 season, the Duke Blue Devils finished with a record of 35–5, tied for the most wins, and scored a total of 3079 points;

Whereas the Blue Devils went undefeated on their home court in Cameron Indoor Stadium for the 2009–2010 regular season;

Whereas the Duke Blue Devils won the 2010 Atlantic Coast Conference (hereinafter referred to as the “ACC”) Tournament, their record 18 such tournament championship, and won a share of the ACC regular-season championship with a conference record of 13–3;

Whereas the Duke Blue Devils have played in 15 Final Fours and have played in at least one Final Four in 6 consecutive decades;

Whereas the Blue Devils have amassed a record overall winning percentage of 75.8 percent in the NCAA tournament;

Whereas the Blue Devil players, coaches, and staff are outstanding representatives of Duke University, a top ten university that is recognized annually as a national leader in academics and research;

Whereas in addition to their skill on the court, the Duke men's basketball team upholds a high standard of academic excellence, achieving an overall graduation success rate of 92 percent;

Whereas the Duke men's basketball program has had 31 ACC All-Academic basketball teams over the last 14 years, has had at least one player on the ACC All-Academic basketball team for a record 16 straight years, has received 5 Academic All-America selections over the past 12 years, and has had at least one team member on the ACC All-Academic basketball team in 23 of the last 26 years for a total of 46 selections;

Whereas the Blue Devils showed tremendous dedication to their team, appreciation to their fans, sportsmanship toward their opponents, and respect for the game of basketball throughout the 2009–2010 season;

Whereas Duke students, faculty, staff, alumni, and all fans of the Blue Devils are to be congratulated for their sportsmanship, dedication, and support of their team; and

Whereas the Blue Devils' 2010 NCAA championship further solidifies the tradition of basketball excellence that exists in the State of North Carolina, whose universities have won 4 of the last 10 NCAA championships: Now, therefore, be it—

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates the 2010 national champions, the Duke University Blue Devils, for their win in the 2010 National Collegiate

Athletic Association Division I Men's Basketball Tournament;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and support staff who were instrumental in the Blue Devils' victory;

(3) invites the Duke University men's basketball team to the United States Capitol Building to be honored; and

(4) directs the Clerk of the House of Representatives to make available enrolled copies of this resolution to Duke University President Richard H. Brodhead, Athletic Director Kevin White, and Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski for appropriate display.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPPS). Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) and the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. MCMORRIS ROGERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair now recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I request 5 legislative days during which Members may revise and extend and insert extraneous materials on H. Res. 1242 into the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Ohio?

There was no objection.

Ms. FUDGE. I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Duke University men's basketball team for winning the 2010 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball National Championship.

When the final buzzer sounded in the 2010 Men's Basketball NCAA Championship game, two exceptional college basketball programs' seasons came to an end. Both the Duke University Blue Devils and the Butler University Bulldogs played with exceptional talent and dedication. The ball pressure and stifling defenses from both teams led to a low-scoring, yet entertaining, game. The game included five ties, 15 lead changes, and two potentially game-winning shots. In the end, Duke seized their fourth NCAA Men's Basketball Championship, cementing its legacy in college basketball history.

With a 61–59 victory Monday night at Lucas Oil Stadium, the Duke University Blue Devils proved that they are still one of the country's most elite college basketball programs. The Blue Devils finished their regular 2009–2010 season strongly, with a 35–5 record, followed by winning the 2010 Atlantic Coast Conference Tournament. In addition, they were cochampions of the ACC with a record of 13–3, while earning an NCAA tournament number 1 seed. In a tournament where the top seeds were falling and upsets were ample, the Blue Devils consistently dominated their opponents.

This Blue Devils men's basketball season marked Coach Mike Krzyzewski's 30th season at Duke and his fourth NCAA Men's Basketball Championship. Better known as Coach K, Coach K has led Duke to the Final Four 11 times during his time with the

team, and this game was his 868th career win as a coach. The 2010 NCAA championship game marked his 77th NCAA tournament game, the most in NCAA history. He won his fourth national championship and tied Adolph Rupp for second most in NCAA history.

Kyle Singler was named the Final Four's Most Outstanding Player, scoring 19 points and collecting nine rebounds while playing all 40 minutes in the championship game. He has been a leader and a remarkable asset to the Blue Devils all season. Kyle Singler, Jon Scheyer, and Nolan Smith were each named to the all-tournament team. I congratulate these men and all of the players on a great victory.

The alumni, faculty, and staff have much to be proud of. With over a 75 percent winning rate in the NCAA tournament, the rest of the country measures themselves to Duke.

Once again, I congratulate Duke on winning the national championship. I thank Representative PRICE for bringing this bill forward.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in support of House Resolution 1242, congratulating the Duke University men's basketball team. The Duke University Blue Devils men's basketball team has a national reputation for excellence. The team has won four NCAA Division I National Championships, and has been among the Final Four 15 times since 1980. Seventy-one Duke players have been drafted into the NBA, and 11 players have been named the National Player of the Year. Duke has won the most Atlantic Coast Tournament championships and has also had numerous successful regular seasons.

In the 2010 NCAA championship game, Duke took the victory over Butler with a final score of 61-59. Butler played a very competitive game, keeping the score incredibly close throughout the entire game; however, Duke pulled ahead by one point each half to take the victory.

Although we are celebrating Duke's athletic excellence, we should take a moment to recognize the quality of Duke's academic programs.

Duke University has two undergraduate schools and nine graduate and professional schools. In the 2010 edition, U.S. News & World Report ranked the university's undergraduate program 10th among national universities, and ranked the medical, law, and business schools among the top 12 in the United States. Duke also is known to be among the Nation's top research universities.

I rise today to congratulate Duke University's men's basketball team and Coach K for winning the 2010 NCAA National Championship. I ask my colleagues to join in support of this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the gentleman

from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE) for as much time as he may consume.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague (Ms. FUDGE) for yielding, and I thank her and Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS for their support of H. Res. 1242 and their help in bringing it to the floor.

I am the proud sponsor of this resolution, which congratulates the Duke University men's basketball team for winning the 2010 NCAA Division I National Championship. I have introduced the resolution as the Member of this body privileged to represent Duke University, and I'm pleased to say that it has the support of the entire North Carolina delegation.

From its roots as tiny Trinity College in 1838 to its current status as one of the world's premiere research and educational institutions, Duke University, like its basketball team, is a testament to the virtues of hard work, determination, and excellence—in the classroom, in the community, and in Cameron Indoor Stadium as well.

I actually have the distinction, not always enviable, of representing both sides of college basketball's most intense rivalry. UNC-Chapel Hill is just down the road from Duke. It's also in the Fourth District. I've had an interesting vantage point, having attended UNC and having taught at Duke. Trust me, I understand the importance of team loyalties to Members of Congress, and I also understand the need, occasionally, to balance these loyalties. But I think we can all agree today that the Blue Devils should be commended, and they should be commended unanimously, for reaching this pinnacle of men's college basketball.

At the risk of stoking the flames, let me just talk about the record for a moment. I'd be remiss if I didn't remind my colleagues that the Duke Blue Devils have a long history of success at men's basketball. They've played in 15 Final Fours, and this is their fourth title win in the last two decades.

Despite this record, the team wasn't favored to win a national championship at the beginning of this season. But they peaked at the right time. They finished the year with 10 straight wins. They shared the ACC regular season championship and won outright the ACC tournament championship and the national championship. They finished the season with a 35-5 record, a tie for the most wins this season nationally.

This improbable end to this season underscores that anything is possible in basketball as in politics. It's also a testament to the very idea of what a team should be, greater than the sum of its parts, an idea Duke teams have long exemplified.

I will enclose in the RECORD at the end of this statement the full roster of this remarkable team, the men on the team and their hometowns.

Special credit is due to head coach Mike Krzyzewski, known far and wide as Coach K, who's built one of college basketball's most stellar programs

since he came to Duke in 1980. This season Coach K brought his overall record to 868-279. He won his 77th NCAA tournament game, and he won his fourth national championship. Needless to say, this places this Hall of Famer in elite company. Only Adolph Rupp and John Wooden have won an equal or greater number of national championships.

But his achievements have not been bounded by the baselines of the court. Coach K's success is about mentoring young men, about coaching them to succeed, not just on the court, but also in the classroom and in life. His teams consistently uphold a high standard of academic excellence, achieving a graduation success rate of 92 percent and boasting a strong tradition of Academic All-Americans.

Each step of the way the team was buoyed by its fans, its incredible fans—the Cameron Crazies, they're called—who make Duke's Cameron Indoor Stadium one of the toughest places to win in the country. That again proved true this year when the Blue Devils went undefeated on their home court.

This year's national championship game was considered by many to be one of the closest and most exciting title games in tournament history. It literally came down to the last shot.

Butler University and Coach Brad Stevens are also to be congratulated for their strong season and for their effort in a title game that reminded us anew of why the American people simply can't resist March Madness. Both teams deserve recognition for their dedication to sportsmanship and fair play throughout the entire season.

So it's a unique privilege, Madam Speaker, to introduce, I have to note for the second year in a row, the resolution in this body recognizing the NCAA Men's Basketball National Champion. And I'd like, Madam Speaker, for the RECORD to reflect that I'll be perfectly happy to introduce such a resolution again next year.

In the meantime, I and Duke's many friends and alumni in this body look forward to welcoming the Blue Devils to the White House and to Capitol Hill.

Duke Blue Devils Roster 2009-2010 Season:
 #2 Nolan Smith—Upper Marlboro, MD
 #3 Seth Curry—Charlotte, NC
 #5 Mason Plumlee—Warsaw, IN
 #12 Kyle Singler—Medford, OR
 #20 Andre Dawkins—Chesapeake, VA
 #21 Miles Plumlee—Warsaw, IN
 #30 Jon Scheyer—Northbrook, IL
 #34 Ryan Kelly—Raleigh, NC
 #41 Jordan Davidson—Melbourne, AR
 #42 Lance Thomas—Scotch Plains, NJ
 #51 Steve Johnson—Colorado Springs, CO
 #52 Todd Zafirovski—Lake Forest, IL
 #53 Casey Peters—Red Bank, NJ
 #55 Brian Zoubek—Haddonfield, NJ

□ 1415

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) for such time as he may consume.

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. I rise today to begrudgingly support this resolution and offer my congratulations to Duke, Coach K, and to all of those outstanding players for the NCAA men's national championship game.

Now that being said, I would be remiss, since I will have been married 25 years to a graduate of Butler University, to fail to also rise and commend Coach Brad Stevens and the small but mighty basketball team that America became enamored of in this year's tournament, simply known as "Them Dogs" back in Indiana and the Butler University Bulldogs to the rest of the country.

Taking nothing away from Duke, an outstanding university and an outstanding program, or Coach K, I have to tell you I was especially moved when I think it was the day before the basketball game when there was all of the talk about David and Goliath, all the talk of underdogs, and Coach K, being the class act that he is, went before the national press and said, Enough of this talk about underdogs. Butler is a really good basketball team. And anyone who tuned in that night—and my ears are still ringing from Mrs. Pence's enthusiasm that night—saw that the case was proved.

Ultimately, Duke carried the day, but with the news that coach Brad Stevens has signed a long-term contract to stay in Indiana—and I think we're only losing one player next year—I say to my distinguished colleagues, representing and speaking on behalf of Duke, See you next year. Congratulations.

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to recognize the gentlewoman from California (Ms. RICHARDSON) for 3 minutes.

Ms. RICHARDSON. I rise today to congratulate the Duke University men's basketball team for winning the 2010 Division I National Championship and in support of H. Res. 1242.

Now, after listening to talk about "Them Dogs" and the "Blue Devils," being a Bruin and a Trojan myself, I thought we needed to weigh in and extend our congratulations.

This spectacular season by the Duke Blue Devils capped by a thrilling, hard-fought victory against the Butler Bulldogs in the NCAA tournament finals last Monday night is another proud chapter in Duke's very long history of success. As a graduate of both UCLA and USC—and that's USC, University of Southern California, not University of South Carolina—as I found since coming to Congress here—I'm a former basketball player and I understand what it takes in terms of hard work, intense focus, and a tireless dedication required by both players, team members and the university itself.

Particularly when we look at the Duke men's basketball team that, as has already been stated, has 15 Final Four appearances, 11, I believe, under the name of Coach K, when you consider that accomplishment, it will long

be filled with the histories of college basketball, of the incredible commitment that this university has done not only on the court but off the court as well.

When I look at Coach K and we hear about all of his commitment to his players and we consider his record, the fourth national championship and how Coach K has now tied Adolph Rupp, I would like to point out, though, that he still has six more to catch my alma mater, which is John Wooden of UCLA. But we welcome that challenge.

In addition, when we talk about Coach K, Mr. PENCE talked about his mentorship, and I read a little bit about his commitment, of being a role model and the positive impact he wants to have on young men—not only with Duke University but the other young men who were watching how Duke played and were carrying themselves.

But, finally, I would like to commend Congressman DAVID PRICE not only for sponsoring this resolution but for his success, something many of us in Congress could figure out how to do, how he can represent both the Duke Blue Devils and the University of North Carolina Tar Heels who won the championship last year, as he mentioned.

Any college basketball fan knows that the Duke-UNC rivalry is only second to the UCLA-USC rivalry. And I've got to tell you, it's tough living in my household having those battles. It takes exceptional skill and diplomacy to successfully represent both ends of Tobacco Road, skills that my colleague from North Carolina possesses in abundance.

I urge my colleagues to join me in congratulating Congressman PRICE. And in terms of the resolution next year, I'm willing to wager a bet.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. I would like to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON).

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Let me just say that I am a great admirer of Duke University. I lean a little more toward Butler since I'm from Indianapolis, Indiana, and I thought Duke played a great game. And I want you to know, there is no truth to the rumor that Butler intentionally missed that last basketball shot because they didn't want to hurt Duke's feelings. Are you listening over there?

Anyhow, congratulations to Duke University and to Butler University. Butler is a very small school. It's a private school in Indianapolis, and for them to reach the final game in the national championship is a real tribute not only to the school and the players but to a great young coach who's only been coaching for 3 years. And of course the Duke Blue Devils are always tough, and I'm very proud to say we want to congratulate them. But the Bulldogs did a great job. They were a great team, and next year we're going to get them.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1242, a resolution

congratulating the Duke University Men's Basketball team for winning the 2010 NCAA National Championship. As a cosponsor of H. Res. 1242, I would like to commend my colleague from Chapel Hill, Mr. PRICE, for bringing this bipartisan resolution to the floor today, particularly since he previously served as a Professor in Political Science at Duke before coming to Congress.

On Monday, April 5, 2010, the Duke Blue Devils outlasted an outstanding team from Butler University by a score of 61–59 to win the NCAA National Championship. In the closest National Championship game played since 1989, the Blue Devils—with the starting line up of Jon Scheyer, Kyle Singler, Nolan Smith, Lance Thomas, and Brian Zoubek—captured the school's fourth national title behind the leadership of Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski.

Madam Speaker, the Blue Devils finished the season with a record of 35–5, and on the way to the National Championship, they set a school record in home victories by going undefeated with a mark of 17–0 at historic Cameron Indoor Stadium. Furthermore, Duke won a share of the Atlantic Coast Conference regular-season championship with a record of 13–3 and won a record 18th ACC Tournament title.

While this National Championship was truly a team effort, it is difficult to overlook the individual contributions that guided this championship run. Kyle Singler was named Final Four Most Outstanding Player and ACC Tournament MVP. Jon Scheyer and Nolan Smith were also named to the all-tournament team, and Brian Zoubek averaged 10 rebounds per game throughout the NCAA Tournament. These contributions, among many others, led the Blue Devils to the championship.

Madam Speaker, in his 30th year at the helm of the Blue Devils, Head Coach Mike Krzyzewski coached his 1,000th game at Duke, led the Blue Devils to his 11th Final Four appearance—tying the legendary North Carolina Coach Dean Smith—and 8th National Championship game appearance. In leading Duke to the 2010 National Championship, Coach K tied legendary Kentucky Coach Adolph Rupp with four national championships.

During his time at Duke, Coach K has built a program that embraces the idea of the student-athlete. In addition to the numerous athletic accomplishments, the Blue Devils have also excelled in the classroom. In a study conducted by the Institute for Diversity and Ethics in Sport at the University of Central Florida, the Duke Blue Devils achieved a 92% graduation rate, ranking Duke among the highest of the 65 schools that qualified for the 2010 NCAA Tournament.

Madam Speaker, I believe Duke students, alumni, and fans in my Congressional District in Western North Carolina—as well as across the state and nation—can take pride in the accomplishments made by the 2009–2010 Duke Blue Devils. This team represented Duke University, the State of North Carolina, and the ACC in a way that truly embodies the spirit of college athletics. I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 1242.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. I yield back the balance of our time.

Ms. FUDGE. Madam Speaker, I ask support for House Resolution 1242, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by

the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. FUDGE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1242.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mrs. McMORRIS RODGERS. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO THE PEOPLE OF POLAND

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 1246) expressing sympathy to the people of Poland in the aftermath of the tragic plane crash that killed the country's President, First Lady, and 94 others on April 10, 2010.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 1246

Whereas the Polish President Lech Kaczynski and 95 other people, including Poland's First Lady, deputy foreign minister, deputy defense minister, dozens of members of Parliament, the chiefs of the army and navy, and the president of the national bank, were killed in a plane crash in western Russia on April 10, 2010;

Whereas President Kaczynski and his colleagues were traveling to Katyn, Russia for a memorial service to mark the 70th anniversary of the Soviet secret police killing of more than 20,000 Polish officers, prisoners, and intellectuals who were captured after the Soviet Union invaded Poland in 1939;

Whereas Ryszard Kaczorowski, who served as Poland's final president in exile before the country's return to democracy, perished;

Whereas Anna Walentynowicz, the former dock worker whose firing in 1980 sparked the Solidarity strike that ultimately overthrew the Polish communist government, was also killed in the crash;

Whereas respected Chicago artist Wojciech Sewerny, whose father was killed in Katyn, and who recently completed a memorial to the victims of Katyn at St. Adalbert Cemetery in Niles, Illinois, which Polish President Kaczynski planned to visit in May, died in the crash as well;

Whereas Russia and Poland had begun to heal the deep wounds from the Katyn tragedy, with Russian Prime Minister Vladimir Putin recently joining Polish Prime Minister Donald Tusk at a ceremony marking the event at Katyn;

Whereas Prime Minister Putin, the first Russian leader ever to attend the Katyn commemoration said "we bow our heads to those who bravely met death here";

Whereas more than 9,000,000 Americans of Polish descent now reside in the United States, including in major metropolitan areas such as Chicago, Detroit, and New York City;

Whereas the American people stood in support of the Solidarity movement as it fought against the oppression of the Polish communist government through peaceful means, eventually leading to Solidarity members being elected to office in partially free democratic elections held on June 4, 1989;

Whereas Poland joined the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) in 1999 and has since contributed to military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan; and

Whereas the United States and Poland share a strong bond of friendship and international cooperation: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) mourns the death of President Kaczynski and the terrible loss of life that resulted from the plane crash of April 10, 2010;

(2) expresses its deepest sympathies to the people of Poland and the families of those who perished for their profound loss;

(3) expresses strong and continued solidarity with the people of Poland and all persons of Polish descent; and

(4) expresses unwavering support for the Polish government as it works to overcome the loss of many key public officials.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DELAHUNT. I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of this resolution, which expresses sympathy for the people of Poland following the tragic plane crash last weekend that killed their President and so many others.

I wish to thank my colleagues and friends, Representatives DAHLKEMPER, KANJORSKI, and LIPINSKI for quickly preparing a text that enables this House to add its voice to the condolences being expressed around the world on this sad occasion.

Last Saturday we woke to the terrible news of a plane crash in western Russia. This accident took the lives of Polish President Lech Kaczynski, his wife, the deputy foreign minister, the deputy defense minister, the chiefs of the army and navy, the president of the national bank, dozens of members of parliament, as well as civilian and military staff.

Today, the House mourns the death of President Kaczynski and his colleagues. We express our deepest sympathies to the people of Poland as well to the families who have suffered such a grievous loss. We think, too, of the millions of Americans who claim Polish ancestry, as we know their hearts are also heavy.

We pledge to stand by the Polish Government as it seeks to reconstitute itself and reaffirm our enduring friendship for Poland.

Madam Speaker, what makes this accident even more tragic is that it occurred as President Kaczynski's delegation was traveling to commemorate one of the most brutal events of World War II—the execution of more than 20,000 Polish officers, prisoners, and intellectuals in Katyn Forest by the Soviet Secret Police in 1939.

Earlier in the week, there were encouraging signs that Poland and Russia were beginning to heal the deep wounds caused by these horrific wartime events. Russian Prime Minister Putin joined Poland Prime Minister Donald Tusk at a ceremony marking the 70th anniversary of this massacre—the first time a Russian leader has ever participated in this memorial.

The Russian people have been very supportive and responsive in the wake of the disaster, with Prime Minister Putin personally heading the inquiry into the crash.

Konstantin Kosachev, chairman of the International Relations Committee of the Russian State Duma—described the death of the Polish President as a great tragedy for both the Polish and the Russian peoples. Observing that both countries were mourning together, he solemnly noted, and these are his words: "Katyn took some more victims."

If anything positive is to come from these tragic deaths, it may be the development of closer ties between these two nations and their citizens.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1430

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am saddened by the need for this resolution. The death of Polish President Lech Kaczynski, his wife Maria, and 94 other Polish officials and citizens in the plane crash in Russia on April 10 was sudden, unexpected, and truly a tragedy for the nation of Poland.

We have all seen the outpouring of grief and tributes since then by the citizens of Poland in support and in honor of their late President and all who died with him.

There is little that we can here do today to add to the honors bestowed upon the departed by their very own countrymen, but we can, however, offer our condolences to the strong and proud nation of Poland, which has been and remains a friend and an ally of the United States.

Despite the loss of their President, we can be certain that the Polish people will continue on the road toward democracy, prosperity, and security, the road that they have traveled since they broke free of the grip of Communist authoritarian rule in 1989.

How proud we were, when they regained their freedom, that America has stood by the people of Poland during those times when they suffered under a Communist dictatorship and domination by the former Soviet regime in Moscow. Similarly, the people of Poland now offer their solidarity with those who seek freedom in my native homeland of Cuba. Having suffered in the not-too-distant past under the crushing yoke of the Soviet regime, many in Poland sadly know all too well the struggles that the people of Cuba face each and every day under the stranglehold of the Cuban dictatorship.

Poland's support for human rights and democracy in Cuba illustrates it has not forgotten its past suffering nor the strength that it received from the solidarity of others. And how proud we are today that Poland has become an important member of both the North Atlantic Alliance and the European Union and that it has become a strong voice for those countries in Eastern Europe that are working to ensure that they never again fall victim to the domination by a more powerful neighboring state.

President Kaczynski was, in fact, an important leader in an effort to ensure that the hard-won liberty and democracy today enjoyed by Poland and other nations of Eastern Europe is not bartered away. He recognized the temptations faced by other European states which eagerly expand their commercial and military exports to Russia while increasing their reliance on energy supplies from Russia. He would not succumb to those Russian manipulations and coercions.

The late Polish President was a voice that may have been unwelcome among some in the councils in Brussels, but it was a voice that was heeded.

Moreover, Madam Speaker, under his leadership, Poland continued as a strong friend and a staunch ally of the United States, supporting military operations against extremists in Iraq and in Afghanistan, supporting America's efforts to create long-range missile defenses for both Europe and the United States, participating as a full partner in NATO, and supporting the expansion of democracy everywhere.

There are those in Europe who, while enjoying the security commitment provided by the United States through NATO, nevertheless feel free to criticize America's initiatives to fight extremism and address threats around the world. President Kaczynski was not one of those voices. In fact, during his trip to the United States 3 years ago, he made a special trip to visit the Reagan Library as a sign of his country's appreciation for our former President's leadership in the efforts to free his country from Communist domination. President Kaczynski valued this support and offered Poland's support in return.

Madam Speaker, we express our condolences to the people of Poland on the loss of their President, his wife, and so

many of the leading officials and countrymen. At this time, and in the future, America will forever remain a friend of Poland.

With that, Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to one of the original sponsors of this resolution, the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Mrs. DAHLKEMPER).

Mrs. DAHLKEMPER. I thank the gentleman; and I want to thank the leadership for allowing myself and my colleagues, Mr. LIPINSKI and Mr. KANJORSKI, to bring forward this very important but very sad resolution.

It is with a very heavy heart today that I rise to offer House Resolution 1246 expressing sympathy to the people of Poland in the aftermath of the tragic plane crash that killed the country's President, First Lady, and 94 others on April 10, 2010. President Lech Kaczynski, his wife Maria, Poland's army chief, navy chief commander, governor of the Polish central bank, other lawmakers, aides, and state officials were lost when their plane crashed in Western Russia.

The delegation was traveling to a memorial service to honor 22,000 Polish officers killed in Russia's Katyn forest by the Soviet secret police in 1940.

We offer our condolences and sympathy to the Polish people and Polish Americans as we mourn the loss of President Kaczynski, his wife, and other great leaders lost in this tragedy.

President Kaczynski was a distinguished statesman and leader in the Solidarity movement. He will be long remembered for his commitment to freedom, democracy, and human dignity.

Today, we stand in solidarity with more than 38 millions Poles in Poland and 9 million Americans of Polish descent now residing in the United States, including more than 14,000 Polish Americans in my hometown of Erie, Pennsylvania. Polish Americans have made great contributions to our Nation's livelihood and culture, and we are grateful for their presence in the United States.

Our hearts go out to our Polish brothers and sisters across the globe who share in this horrible loss. In this time of mourning, let us remember the words of St. Peter, "And the God of all grace, who called you to his eternal glory in Christ, after you have suffered a little while, will himself restore you and make you strong, firm, and steadfast."

I urge my colleagues to stand in solidarity with Poland and support our resolution.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, at this time, I would like to yield such time as he may consume to our esteemed colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE), a wonderful member of our Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. POE of Texas. I thank the ranking member for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I also rise today to join all my colleagues in mourning the death of President Lech Kaczynski and many others who died in that plane crash on April 10, 2010. Poland lost some of its most famous political figures. They were heroes among the Polish people. The 95 people that died that day included the President, a very pro-U.S. and anti-Soviet individual, and his wife and numerous other political government officials.

It's interesting to note why so many officials were going to Russia, why they were on that particular plane headed to a specific event. Well, that Polish delegation was traveling to Russia to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Katyn massacre.

On September 17, 1939, the Red Army invaded the territory of Poland from the east. They captured hundreds of thousands of Poles and deported them to prisoner of war camps in the western Soviet Union.

Once at the camps, the Poles were subjected to lengthy interrogations; and if the prisoners could not be induced to adopt a pro-Soviet attitude, they were declared "hardened and uncompromising enemies of Soviet authority."

So on March 5, 1940, Joseph Stalin and three of his henchmen signed an order to execute over 20,000 prisoners, all Poles, to weaken any future Polish military. In the Katyn forest, Soviet secret police executed more than 20,000 Polish nationals who were mainly officers in the Polish military.

And beginning on April 3, the killings were methodical. After a condemned person's information was checked, that individual was handcuffed and led to a secret cell that was insulated with felt to make sure that no noise could come from that cell. The sounds were also masked by the operation of loud machines that were working in the factories. And after being taken to the cell, the victim was immediately shot in the back of the head. His body was taken out through the opposite door in the cell and laid in one of the five or six waiting trucks, whereupon the next condemned Pole was taken inside and the same procedure was methodically followed again.

This occurred over 20,000 times; and the procedure went on every day, every night, except, ironically, for the May Day celebration. In the end, those 20,000 POWs and prisoners were executed without a trial, just a summary judgment.

Those who died at the Katyn include an admiral, two generals, 24 colonels, 79 lieutenant colonels, 258 Polish majors, 654 captains, 17 naval captains, over 3,000 noncommissioned officers. It included even seven chaplains, three landowners, a prince, 43 public officials, 85 privates, and 131 other refugees.

Also among the dead were 20 university professors, 300 doctors, several hundred lawyers, engineers, teachers, and more than 100 writers and journalists, as well as about 200 pilots, all

leaders in the Polish community. The effort of the Soviet Union was to destroy those leaders and destroy Poland as well. These were all Poles, all victims of the terror of communism.

For over half a century, Moscow even denied this ever occurred. The Soviet government had suppressed all the information about the shootings and blamed it on the Nazis. In 1992, Russia finally released the documents showing that the entire Politburo, including Joseph Stalin, signed an order dated March, 1940, to kill these Polish officers.

Poland had a rough history in the last century. They were invaded by the Nazis, and many of the Poles were taken to Germany and died in concentration camps. And then the Soviets invaded the same country trying to drive out the Nazis; and they, too, took many Poles and put them in concentration camps, where many of them died.

In the United States, we celebrate the end of World War II in 1945, but the Poles, they don't celebrate the end of World War II in 1945. They celebrate it in 1989, when the wall finally fell and the Soviets left town. It was a long war for our friends in Poland.

So now, Madam Speaker, we know the rest of the story and why President Kaczynski and so many Poles were on that plane that crashed in Russia. Now they, too, ironically, have died on the same land where thousands of other Poles died over 70 years ago.

It is appropriate today that we pay homage to all of those Poles who have lived and died in a quest for Polish liberty, those Poles who have always been an ally of the United States, and we grieve while they grieve in Poland.

And that's just the way it is.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to another original sponsor of this resolution, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI).

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I rise to share my deepest sympathies and solemn condolences with the people of Poland and all those who are impacted by this tragic plane crash. President Kaczynski will be deeply missed. He was determined to ensure the strength, prosperity, and sovereignty of Poland and was a strong ally of the United States.

□ 1445

Chicago also mourns the loss of one of our own, Wojciech Seweryn, who perished in the crash.

The Polish and American people have long shared a deep attachment to the values of freedom and independence. Today, with over 9 million people of Polish ancestry in the U.S., including roughly 1 million in Illinois, Poland remains one of America's closest allies. Our two nations continue to cooperate closely on issues of national security, regional and global security, democratization, and human rights. Our friendship and partnership have been and will continue to be steadfast.

Nothing we say today will make up for the tremendous loss that Poland

has suffered and continues to grieve. However, as a proud Polish American, I hope that by sharing our own grief, sympathy, and unity with the Polish people, we will be able to help them gather the resolve and strength needed to get through such difficult times.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I know that Mr. DELAHUNT has about 10 speakers, so I'm going to continue to reserve for a while.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to the dean of the House, Chairman JOHN DINGELL.

(Mr. DINGELL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I commend, congratulate, and thank my good friends on the committee for their kindness, and I thank my good friend from Massachusetts for yielding this time to me.

I rise in strong support of the resolution expressing the sympathy of the United States for the people of Poland in the aftermath of the tragic plane crash that killed the country's President, First Lady, and 94 other Poles. My thoughts and prayers are with the Polish people at this difficult time.

As an American of Polish descent, proud of my heritage, I grieve at this loss. And what a sad time it occurs when the Poles were going to Smolensk, Russia to commemorate the killing of 20,000 Polish officers and intelligentsia under the direct orders of the Soviet dictator, Joseph Stalin.

I am grieving about the situation in Poland, but I am proud that the Polish people have established a democracy which is not only a friend of the United States, but which is able to survive these difficult times and maintain not only its friendship for America, but its leadership in the world and its superb work in maintaining a democracy for which the Poles have yearned so long.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I thank the gentleman.

I now yield to the Speaker of the House, the gentlelady from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank Mr. DELAHUNT and Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN for giving us this opportunity to come to the floor to express our sympathy to the people of Poland.

Our country is blessed with many Polish Americans. It is a blessing to our country. They are mourning this loss, and all Americans join them. And today, Congress officially joins in that mourning.

The United States and, indeed, the entire world mourn the loss of President Kaczynski and First Lady Maria Kaczynski and all who perished in last weekend's tragic crash. The United States stands with our friend and ally and the people of Poland as they grieve the loss of their President and First Lady, the Chiefs of the Army and Navy, the President of the National Bank, the Deputy Foreign Minister, and dozens of other Cabinet officials and members of Parliament.

The scope of this tragedy is indescribable, the pain of the loss is unimaginable, and our thoughts and prayers rest with the families, friends, and loved ones of the victims. Their loss strikes a blow to the hearts of Polish citizens, all Polish Americans—my nieces are Polish American—and all who believe in a future of peace and prosperity for Poland and for every nation.

I would like to talk about the President. Few leaders have proven greater champions of progress in human dignity than President Kaczynski. He was a true advocate of liberty for Poland, for Poland's families, workers, and citizens. His life was defined by a long struggle for freedom and by the ultimate victory of democracy and human rights.

As a leader in the Solidarity movement, he helped turn the tides of history against the tyranny and oppression of communist rule. As Mayor of Warsaw and as President of Poland, he worked to make the promise of a more just future a reality for the Polish nation. Together with so many who lost their lives in the tragedy, President Kaczynski sought to rebuild Poland, to make his country safer and more secure, and to write a new chapter for future generations.

Again, as I say, we have been blessed in our country with a strong Polish American community, and I know all of them join us in this resolution which remembers the lives lost in this horrible tragedy: the President; so many Polish military and political leaders, past and present; and distinguished citizens. It recalls the life of Poland's final President in exile who led the charge to close the doors of political oppression and open an age of democratic freedom.

This resolution honors the life of a former dock worker whose actions ignited the Solidarity movement that changed the course of Polish history. The resolution reminds us of a Polish American artist from Chicago who just finished a memorial to the victims of the Katyn massacre, where his own father had perished.

The United States Congress joins Poland and countries across the globe in mourning the death of such extraordinary leaders. In the words of this resolution, we express strong and continued solidarity with the people of Poland and all persons of Polish descent. And we are so blessed that the dean of our delegation in the Congress, Mr. DINGELL, shares that honor and brings luster to his Polish heritage, as well as other Members of our Congress as well. And the resolution offers our unwavering support for the Polish Government as it works to overcome the loss of many key officials. Let us strive to live up to their legacy of hope for a brighter future for Poland, Europe, and all humanity.

This morning, I had the privilege of joining Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR—and Congressman MIKE QUIGLEY

was there before us—and other Members who have gone to the Polish Embassy to sign the book of condolences. We are very proud that in doing so we joined President Barack Obama, who had earlier, a few days ago, signed that book. I know it is a comfort to the people of Poland. Ambassador Kupiecki, who may be with us here or shortly will join us in the gallery, told us how the people of Poland were so pleased and comforted by the fact that President Obama would be attending the funeral in Poland on Sunday. He will bring with him all the sympathy of the American people and all of the prayers to help mourn the loss that the people have suffered.

Thank you again, Mr. Chairman and Madam ROS-LEHTINEN, for giving us the opportunity to share our grief over this terrible loss.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that for the remainder of our time Judge POE be allowed to manage our time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. QUIGLEY).

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, last night I spoke of the great tragedy that has befallen Poland. Today I rise to honor a great man, artist, and activist who was also killed in the crash that took Poland's President and 95 others. One of my constituents, Wojciech Seweryn, was aboard the plane on his way to participate in the commemorative events planned to honor those 20,000 Poles who died some 70 years ago.

A Polish artist and influential member of Chicago's Polish community, Mr. Seweryn's father died at Katyn, and Seweryn himself spearheaded the construction of a memorial to the event in a cemetery in Niles, Illinois. Seweryn was on hand last year when the monument was dedicated, as he was at many important events in Chicago's Polish community.

Poles in Chicago make up the largest ethnically Polish population of any city outside of Poland, second only to Warsaw, the capital of Poland. The Polish American community will undoubtedly struggle to fill the void left by many, but particularly Mr. Seweryn and all those lost a few short days ago.

Mr. POE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I continue to reserve.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to the gentlelady from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ).

(Ms. VELÁZQUEZ asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution. All of us mourn the loss of those who helped spread the light of freedom during the Cold War.

Our Nation enjoys deep ties to Poland. Greenpoint, Brooklyn, in my dis-

trict, has one of the most vibrant Polish American communities in the Nation. During the 1980s, many Poles took refuge in this Little Poland when martial law was imposed against Solidarity back home.

Just 2 years ago, President Kaczynski came to Greenpoint. He worshipped in our churches. He met with local leaders, and he visited with the people of Little Poland. His trip there was an inspiring moment for many New Yorkers. Today there are heavy hearts in Greenpoint, as there are in Polish American communities throughout the Nation.

In coming weeks, the Polish people will grieve their loss. We join them in mourning, but we can be comforted that Poland will recover, carry forward, and grow stronger.

The fact that this crash occurred while traveling to a ceremony for another tragedy is a sad irony; however, it also reminds us of the Polish people's strength in the face of adversity. That unyielding spirit shall remain an important part of Poland's identity and of her many sons and daughters who reside in the United States.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio, Representative KUCINICH.

Mr. KUCINICH. Thank you very much, Mr. DELAHUNT.

On Saturday, I received a call from the leader of Cleveland's Polish community, John Borkowski, who informed me of the tragedy that befell the nation of Poland.

Cleveland has a very large Polish American community, which is very proud of its heritage and very involved in promoting the social and cultural aspects of the Polish ethnic heritage. The loss of the humblest citizen on that plane was a great tragedy for Poland. The total loss is a tragedy of monumental proportions.

I am glad to see the United States Congress recognizing the tragedy that has befallen the Polish people and also joining in mourning the loss of President Kaczynski, the First Lady, and 94 others.

I would like to insert in the RECORD a column by Roger Cohen that I think puts an appropriate frame on this important discussion today in which we recognize the grief of the Polish people and show solidarity with them.

Finally, I would just like to say, *niech żyje Polska*—long live Poland.

Madam Speaker, I rise to express my strong support of and condolences for the people of Poland as they mourn the loss of their President, Lech Kaczynski, the First Lady, and 94 others after a tragic plane crash this past Saturday.

In addition to President Kaczynski, his wife, and key public officials, prominent figures in Polish history perished in the plane crash as well—former labor leaders, intellectuals, and historians—figures that shaped Polish history, revolutionized Polish political discourse, and preserved Polish heritage.

In cruel irony, they were traveling to Russia to commemorate the 1940 Katyn massacre

when 20,000 Polish prisoners—including Army officers and the leading Polish intellectuals of the time—were brutally murdered by Soviet Forces. Russian President Vladimir Putin was to join the Polish delegation in their commemoration of the massacre, the first time a high-ranking Russian official has done so since the massacre occurred 70 years ago.

Roger Cohen, writing yesterday in the New York Times, remarked, "Poland should shame every nation that believes peace and reconciliation are impossible, every state that believes that sacrifice of new generations is needed to avenge the grievances of history . . . It is Poland that is now at peace with its neighbors and stable. It is Poland that has joined Germany in the European Union. So do not tell me that cruel history cannot be overcome."

Let us use this unimaginable tragedy to follow Poland's example to promote peace, reconciliation, and diplomacy in the world.

[From the New York Times, Apr. 13, 2010]

THE GLORY OF POLAND

(By Roger Cohen)

NEW YORK.—My first thought, hearing of the Polish tragedy, was that history's gyre can be of an unbearable cruelty, decapitating Poland's elite twice in the same cursed place, Katyn.

My second was to call my old friend Adam Michnik in Warsaw. Michnik, an intellectual imprisoned six times by the former puppet-Soviet Communist rulers, once told me:

"Anyone who has suffered that humiliation, at some level, wants revenge. I know all the lies. I saw people being killed. But I also know that revanchism is never ending. And my obsession has been that we should have a revolution that does not resemble the French or Russian, but rather the American, in the sense that it be for something, not against something. A revolution for a constitution, not a paradise. An anti-utopian revolution. Because utopias lead to the guillotine and the gulag."

Michnik's obsession has yielded fruit. President Lech Kaczynski is dead. Slawomir Skrzypek, the president of the National Bank, is dead. An explosion in the fog of the forest took them and 94 others on the way to Katyn. But Poland's democracy has scarcely skipped a beat. The leader of the lower house of Parliament has become acting president pending an election. The first deputy president of the National Bank has assumed the duties of the late president. Poland, oft dismembered, even wiped from the map, is calm and at peace.

"Katyn is the place of death of the Polish intelligentsia," Michnik, now the soul of Poland's successful *Gazeta Wyborcza* newspaper, said when I reached him by phone. "This is a terrible national tragedy. But in my sadness I am optimistic because Putin's strong and wise declaration has opened a new phase in Polish-Russian relations, and because we Poles are showing we can be responsible and stable."

Michnik was referring to Prime Minister Vladimir Putin's words after he decided last week to join, for the first time, Polish officials commemorating the anniversary of the murder at Katyn of thousands of Polish officers by the Soviet Union at the start of World War II. Putin, while defending the Russian people, denounced the "cynical lies" that had hidden the truth of Katyn, said "there is no justification for these crimes" of a "totalitarian regime" and declared, "We should meet each other halfway, realizing that it is impossible to live only in the past."

The declaration, dismissed by the paleolithic Russian Communist Party, mattered

less than Putin's presence, head bowed in that forest of shame. Watching him beside Poland's prime minister, Donald Tusk, I thought of François Mitterrand and Helmut Kohl hand-in-hand at Verdun in 1984: of such solemn moments of reconciliation has the miracle of a Europe whole and free been built. Now that Europe extends eastward toward the Urals.

I thought even of Willy Brandt on his knees in the Warsaw Ghetto in 1970, a turning point on the road to a German-Polish reconciliation more miraculous in its way even than the dawning of the post-war German-French alliance. And now perhaps comes the most wondrous rapprochement, the Polish-Russian.

It is too early to say where Warsaw-Moscow relations are headed but not too early to say that 96 lost souls would be dishonored if Polish and Russian leaders do not make of this tragedy a solemn bond. As Tusk told Putin, "A word of truth can mobilize two peoples looking for the road to reconciliation. Are we capable of transforming a lie into reconciliation? We must believe we can."

Poland should shame every nation that believes peace and reconciliation are impossible, every state that believes the sacrifice of new generations is needed to avenge the grievances of history. The thing about competitive victimhood, a favorite Middle Eastern pastime, is that it condemns the children of today to join the long list of the dead.

For scarcely any nation has suffered since 1939 as Poland, carved up by the Hitler-Stalin nonaggression pact, transformed by the Nazis into the epicenter of their program to annihilate European Jewry, land of Auschwitz and Majdanek, killing field for millions of Christian Poles and millions of Polish Jews, brave home to the Warsaw Uprising, Soviet pawn, lonely Solidarity-led leader of post-Yalta Europe's fight for freedom, a place where, as one of its great poets, Wislawa Szymborska, wrote, "History counts its skeletons in round numbers"—20,000 of them at Katyn.

It is this Poland that is now at peace with its neighbors and stable. It is this Poland that has joined Germany in the European Union. It is this Poland that has just seen the very symbols of its tumultuous history (including the Gdansk dock worker Anna Walentynowicz and former president-in-exile Ryszard Kaczorowski) go down in a Soviet-made jet and responded with dignity, according to the rule of law.

So do not tell me that cruel history cannot be overcome. Do not tell me that Israelis and Palestinians can never make peace. Do not tell me that the people in the streets of Bangkok and Bishkek and Tehran dream in vain of freedom and democracy. Do not tell me that lies can stand forever.

Ask the Poles. They know.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

□ 1500

Mr. PASCRELL. The very people who stand on this floor today spoke with us, Mr. DELAHUNT, 10 years ago, when we fought to make sure that Poland was a member of NATO. Ironically, as you stand to manage the resolution, House Resolution 1246, your career has been filled with building bridges between communities. This tragedy is ironic in that, hopefully, it will lead—and the

signs are there—to greater relationships between Russia and Poland.

Madam Speaker, Poland is our ally. In Saint John Kanty church in Clifton—in my district—and members in Passaic, in Wallington and in Garfield, there are Polish Americans who send out their deepest sympathies to the families.

Picture the President of the United States, God forbid, and his family and all of the dignitaries of the government—the FBI, the head of the CIA—going to the 9/11 commemoration in New York City and the plane's going down and the whole government wiped out. This is the magnitude that we are looking at today. Our prayers go to the Polish people. We are all Poles today, and until all of these folks are buried, we wish them the best and their families the best.

In closing, this is a very special friend of the United States of America.

POLISH OUTREACH LETTER

I was deeply saddened to hear about the tragic plane crash on April 10, 2010 that took the lives of 97 people, including high ranking Polish government officials, dignitaries, military leaders, President Lech Kaczyński and his wife, Maria Kaczyńska. President Kaczyński served the Polish nation admirably, from his election as Mayor of Warsaw in 2002, to his Presidential election in 2005. He worked tirelessly for the people of Poland. His fight for freedom and democracy in Poland made him a great ally for the United States.

My deepest condolences go out to the Polish people, as well as the Polish-American community during this time of mourning. The tragic events of last week are made even more poignant by the location of the crash site, as the flight was en route to Smolensk Air Base in Russia to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Katyn Massacre. The massacre of 20,000 Polish military officers in 1940 still resonates as one of history's worst wartime atrocities. This horrific event is magnified by the sudden loss of relatives of massacre victims who were on board the flight traveling to commemorate the anniversary.

Remembering the Katyn Massacre and Poland's wartime contributions is why I am a proud cosponsor of H. Res. 715, recognizing the 70th anniversary of the Soviet and Nazi invasion of Poland and the pivotal role Poland has assumed at freedom's edge since gaining independence. This resolution commends the people of Poland for their historic struggle against communism and fascism, recognizes our continued friendship with our Polish allies and honors the historic ties between the United States and Poland.

As you know, I am deeply committed to serving my many constituents in the Polish-American Community. Please be assured that I will continue to work hard to foster relationships between our two nations, and to represent the Polish American community in New Jersey. Please count on me if ever I may assist you regarding any federal matter. I would like to remind you that my website, www.pascrell.house.gov is frequently updated and provides a good way to communicate with me.

Sincerely,

Bill Pascrell, Jr.,
Member of Congress.

Mr. POE of Texas. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to a distinguished

member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY).

Ms. BERKLEY. I thank the gentleman for giving me this time to offer my condolences to the people of Poland.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to join with Polish Americans, with our Nation and, indeed, with the whole world in expressing our deepest sympathies to the people of Poland following this weekend's tragedy that killed their President, the First Lady and a number of other Polish military and civic leaders and dignitaries. We remember these men and women who gave their lives while in the service of Poland, and we send our sincerest condolences to those families who have lost loved ones.

President Kaczynski fought for freedom during the Cold War and brought our two nations closer together during his tenure in office. His legacy will not be forgotten. America stands with our ally Poland, and we pledge our continued support during this time of transition.

As a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and as chairman of the Transatlantic Legislators Dialogue, I call on my colleagues to ensure U.S. support for Poland's needs after this heartbreaking and breathtaking incident and to support this resolution expressing our condolences to the people of Poland.

Mr. POE of Texas. I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I now yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, thank you for bringing this resolution to the floor.

Madam Speaker, on Saturday, I was emailed by Stanley Kobylak, a leader of the Polish community in the Toledo, Ohio/Rossford area, informing me of this tragic situation. I rise in support of this important resolution, offering sympathy to the liberty-loving nation and people of the Republic of Poland, our great ally.

Poland is one of America's longest and most steadfast allies from the time of our own Republic's founding, made possible by the valiance of Polish Generals Casimir Pulaski and Tadeusz Kosciuszko.

Poland's highest leaders, including its President and First Lady, Lech and Maria Kaczynski, were among the victims of that terrible crash as they wended their way to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Katyn massacre when over 22,000 Polish officers, intellectuals and leaders were murdered at the hands of Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Army in and around that forest during World War II. The truth of that slaughter was hidden for over 70 years, and now the entire world knows of that sacred ground.

Madam Speaker, please allow me to extend condolences on behalf of my constituents in Ohio to the friends and

families of those who perished, to the people of Poland, to the nation of Poland, and to the people of Polish heritage throughout the world. Let this moment be one of recommitment to Poland's highest aspirations and full expression of its own history.

So long as we are alive, there will be a Poland.

Mr. POE of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, we sometimes forget how great an ally Poland is to the United States. They have not only had a quest for freedom for their own people, but they have been an ally to this Nation. As the United States and other NATO countries are engaged in the battle against terrorism in Afghanistan, there are over 2,000 members of the Polish military who are there as well, side by side with the United States and with other NATO forces, the freedom fighters that they are, helping to seek freedom and liberty in Afghanistan and against those international terrorists who do us all harm.

I think Mr. PASCRELL, the gentleman from New Jersey, said it well today. "We are all Poles," and we honor them, and we suffer their loss and their grief at this time because of the tragedy that occurred not only on Saturday but at the massacre that occurred in that forest in the Soviet Union many, many years ago.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I would just echo the eloquent sentiments expressed by my friend from Texas.

I have no further requests for time.

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere condolences to the People of Poland and all Americans of Polish descent who are grieving in the wake of the tragic plane crash on April 10th in which President Lech Kaczynski and dozens of the country's top political and military leaders were killed.

One out of every four inhabitants of Riverhead, New York in the first Congressional district of New York claim Polish heritage. This thriving ethnic enclave has been a growing community devoted to family, religion, and tradition since the turn of the twentieth century.

After arriving in America, Polish families established family farms and villages throughout the East End of Long Island. Hard work enabled Riverhead's Polish Town to grow as new immigrants added their talents and skills to those of their neighbors, and the community's special character endures today.

Madam Speaker, Poland and the United States share a long history of mutual support. In this Congress, General Casimir Pulaski, legendary Polish commander of the American Cavalry during the Revolutionary War, was given our nation's highest honor as an Honorary Citizen. Just as General Pulaski supported America in our hour of need, today we stand with all who are suffering from this terrible loss and pledge our continued support of Poland and its people.

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to join so many of my House colleagues in mourning the loss of President Lech Kaczynski and First Lady Maria Kaczynska, who died last Satur-

day in a plane crash in western Russia along with dozens of other distinguished civilian and military leaders of Poland. We mourn their loss and join in sending our sincere condolences to the people of Poland, and especially the family and friends of those who perished in this tragic accident.

Poland is a close friend and ally of the United States. Our two countries are linked by longstanding ties of family and friendship. My home state of Michigan has a large and vibrant Polish-American community. We stand in solidarity with them during this difficult time as we pay our respects to all of those who were lost in this tragedy.

I also wish to express my appreciation to Representatives DAHLKEMPER and LIPINSKI for introducing the resolution before the House. I am pleased to join them in cosponsoring it and urge its passage.

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I rise in support of H. Res. 1246 with a heavy heart to express my deepest condolences to the country of Poland, its people, and the Polish American community. This weekend the country of Poland suffered a tragic loss. Saturday, I awoke to news that the president of Poland, Lech Kaczynski, Poland's first lady Maria Kaczynski, President of the Polish central bank, Slawomir Skrzypek, and many other high ranking military officials all died in a plane crash. The President and these other leaders were in route to Russia to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the tragic massacre at Katyn.

Although these leaders will be missed, I have faith that many talented people in Poland will help their country emerge from this time of sorrow and mourning. I want to let the people of the country of Poland know that I and Metro Detroit's Polish American community extend our deepest sorrow and extend to you our thoughts and prayers in your time of need.

Mr. McMAHON. Madam Speaker, today, I offer my deepest condolences to the country of Poland, its citizens, and the families of President Kaczynski, his wife and all those killed on April 10, 2010. That is why I rise today in support of H. Res. 1246, a resolution expressing sympathy for the people of Poland in the aftermath of the tragic plane crash that killed the country's President, First Lady and 94 others this past Saturday.

Implausibly, this untimely tragedy occurred while President Kaczynski was on his way to commemorate the unspeakable injustices carried out upon the Polish people during the Katyn massacre.

His ability to commemorate this massacre alongside Russian leaders for the first time, speaks volumes to his skill and understanding as a politician and a world leader.

Through my position on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and the Subcommittee on Europe, I have witnessed President Kaczynski's efforts to strengthen US-Poland relations. He was truly one of America's most valued and trusted allies.

His work for human rights and freedoms, not only benefited the people of Poland, but the entire international community. He will be long remembered and sorely missed.

Most notably, he will remain a champion for democracy, a man whose journey took him from the Gdansk Shipyards to the presidency of a free people. His legend will live in the hearts and minds of all those who yearn for a better, more peaceful world.

Mr. KING of New York. Madam Speaker, all the world mourns the horrific plane crash which took the lives of Polish President Lech Kaczynski, his wife Maria, and so many of Poland's leading political, military, and financial officials. This horrible tragedy will be felt for years to come by so many and my thoughts and prayers are with Poland on this day.

I want to particularly acknowledge the tragic loss of Janusz Kochanowski. Dr. Kochanowski was a true scholar, a champion of human rights, and a good friend of the United States who unfortunately was on board that fateful flight. He was a lawyer, a professor, a diplomat, and most recently the Polish Commissioner for Civil Rights Protection (ombudsman). It was in this position that he was an outspoken advocate on behalf of the Polish people including rebuking his own government for its refusal to provide swine flu vaccines to the public amid the global panic.

Once again, let me express my condolences to Dr. Kochanowski's wife, Ewa, and his two children, Marta and Mateusz, on this tragic loss.

Mr. VISCLOSKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 1246 to pay tribute to Polish President Lech Kaczyński, First Lady Maria Kaczyńska, and the other Polish officials who were lost in the catastrophic plane crash on April 10, 2010. I would like to express my deepest and most heartfelt condolences to the people and government of Poland, the families of those who perished, and Polish Americans, especially those who call Northwest Indiana home, in the wake of this tragedy. This is a devastating loss for Poland, the United States, and the world.

Poland is a very dear friend to the United States, and President Kaczyński was one of America's valued and trusted allies. President Kaczyński played a key role in the Solidarity movement, and was widely admired in the United States as a champion for democracy and an advocate for freedom and human rights in Poland, and around the world.

There is a significant sense of sadness throughout Indiana's First Congressional District, where Polish communities have gathered together to honor and mourn those lost. I share the sadness, and join the Polish people, in Northwest Indiana and around the world, in mourning.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1246.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings

will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 1236, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 4994, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 3125, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 1246, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

HONORING COAL MINERS FROM UPPER BIG BRANCH MINE IN WEST VIRGINIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1236, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1236.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 409, nays 0, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 199]

YEAS—409

Ackerman	Calvert	Doggett
Aderholt	Camp	Donnelly (IN)
Adler (NJ)	Cantor	Doyle
Akin	Cao	Dreier
Alexander	Capito	Driehaus
Altmire	Capps	Duncan
Andrews	Capuano	Edwards (MD)
Arcuri	Cardoza	Edwards (TX)
Austria	Carnahan	Ehlers
Baca	Carney	Ellison
Bachmann	Carson (IN)	Ellsworth
Bachus	Carter	Emerson
Baird	Cassidy	Engel
Baldwin	Castle	Eshoo
Barrow	Castor (FL)	Etheridge
Bartlett	Chaffetz	Fallin
Barton (TX)	Chandler	Farr
Bean	Childers	Fattah
Becerra	Chu	Filner
Berkley	Clarke	Flake
Berman	Clay	Fleming
Berry	Cleaver	Forbes
Biggert	Clyburn	Fortenberry
Bilirakis	Coble	Foster
Bishop (NY)	Coffman (CO)	Fox
Bishop (UT)	Cohen	Frank (MA)
Blackburn	Cole	Franks (AZ)
Blumenauer	Conaway	Frelinghuysen
Blunt	Connolly (VA)	Fudge
Boccheri	Conyers	Garamendi
Boehner	Cooper	Garrett (NJ)
Bonner	Costa	Gerlach
Bono Mack	Costello	Giffords
Boozman	Courtney	Gingrey (GA)
Boren	Crenshaw	Gohmert
Boswell	Crowley	Goodlatte
Boucher	Cuellar	Gordon (TN)
Boustany	Culberson	Granger
Boyd	Cummings	Graves
Brady (PA)	Dahlkemper	Grayson
Brady (TX)	Davis (CA)	Green, Al
Braley (IA)	Davis (IL)	Green, Gene
Bright	Davis (KY)	Griffith
Brown (GA)	Davis (TN)	Grijalva
Brown (SC)	DeFazio	Guthrie
Brown, Corrine	DeGette	Gutierrez
Brown-Waite,	Delahunt	Hall (NY)
Ginny	DeLauro	Hall (TX)
Buchanan	Dent	Halvorson
Burgess	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hare
Burton (IN)	Diaz-Balart, M.	Harman
Butterfield	Dicks	Harper
Buyer	Dingell	Hastings (FL)

Hastings (WA)	Matheson	Ros-Lehtinen
Heinrich	Matsui	Roskam
Heller	McCarthy (CA)	Ross
Hensarling	McCarthy (NY)	Rothman (NJ)
Herger	McCauley	Roybal-Allard
Hereth Sandlin	McClintock	Royce
Higgins	McCollum	Rush
Hill	McCotter	Ryan (OH)
Himes	McDermott	Ryan (WI)
Hinchey	McGovern	Salazar
Hinojosa	McHenry	Sanchez, Loretta
Hirono	McIntyre	Sarbanes
Hodes	McKeon	Scalise
Holden	McMahon	Schakowsky
Holt	McMorris	Schauer
Honda	Rodgers	Schiff
Hoyer	McNerney	Schmidt
Hunter	Meek (FL)	Schock
Inglis	Meeks (NY)	Schrader
Inslee	Melancon	Schwartz
Israel	Mica	Scott (VA)
Issa	Michaud	Sensenbrenner
Jackson (IL)	Miller (FL)	Serrano
Jackson Lee	Miller (MI)	Sessions
(TX)	Miller (NC)	Sestak
Jenkins	Miller, Gary	Shadeegg
Johnson (GA)	Miller, George	Shea-Porter
Johnson (IL)	Minnick	Shimkus
Johnson, E. B.	Mitchell	Shuler
Johnson, Sam	Mollohan	Shuster
Jones	Moran (KS)	Simpson
Jordan (OH)	Moran (VA)	Sires
Kagen	Murphy (CT)	Skelton
Kanjorski	Murphy (NY)	Slaughter
Kaptur	Murphy, Patrick	Smith (NE)
Kennedy	Murphy, Tim	Smith (NJ)
Kildee	Myrick	Smith (TX)
Kilpatrick (MI)	Nadler (NY)	Smith (WA)
Kilroy	Napolitano	Snyder
Kind	Neal (MA)	Souder
King (IA)	Neugebauer	Space
King (NY)	Nunes	Speier
Kingston	Nye	Spratt
Kirk	Oberstar	Stark
Kirkpatrick (AZ)	Obey	Stearns
Kissell	Olson	Stupak
Klein (FL)	Olver	Sullivan
Kline (MN)	Ortiz	Sutton
Kosmas	Owens	Tanner
Kratovil	Pallone	Taylor
Kucinich	Pascarella	Teague
Lamborn	Pastor (AZ)	Thompson (CA)
Lance	Paul	Thompson (MS)
Langevin	Paulsen	Thompson (PA)
Larsen (WA)	Payne	Thornberry
Larson (CT)	Pence	Tiahrt
Latham	Perlmutter	Tiberi
LaTourette	Perriello	Tierney
Latta	Peters	Titus
Lee (CA)	Peterson	Tonko
Lee (NY)	Petri	Towns
Levin	Pingree (ME)	Tsongas
Lewis (CA)	Pitts	Turner
Lewis (GA)	Platts	Upton
Linder	Poe (TX)	Van Hollen
Lipinski	Polis (CO)	Visclosky
LoBiondo	Pomeroy	Walden
Loebach	Posey	Walz
Lofgren, Zoe	Price (NC)	Waters
Lowe	Putnam	Watson
Lucas	Quigley	Watt
Luetkemeyer	Radanovich	Waxman
Lujan	Rahall	Weiner
Lummis	Rangel	Welch
Lungren, Daniel	Rehberg	Westmoreland
E.	Reichert	Whitfield
Lynch	Reyes	Wilson (OH)
Mack	Richardson	Wilson (SC)
Maffei	Rodriguez	Wittman
Maloney	Roe (TN)	Wolf
Manzullo	Rogers (AL)	Woolsey
Marchant	Rogers (KY)	Wu
Markey (CO)	Rogers (MI)	Yarmuth
Markey (MA)	Rohrabacher	Young (FL)
Marshall	Rooney	

NOT VOTING—20

Barrett (SC)	Moore (KS)	Terry
Bilbray	Moore (WI)	Velázquez
Bishop (GA)	Price (GA)	Wamp
Campbell	Ruppersberger	Wasserman
Davis (AL)	Sánchez, Linda	Schultz
Gallegly	T.	Young (AK)
Gonzalez	Scott (GA)	
Hoekstra	Sherman	

□ 1537

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 199, had I been present, I would have voted "yes."

TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2010

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPPS). The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4994, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4994, as amended.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 399, nays 9, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 200]

YEAS—399

Ackerman	Buyer	Donnelly (IN)
Aderholt	Calvert	Doyle
Adler (NJ)	Camp	Dreier
Akin	Cantor	Driehaus
Alexander	Cao	Edwards (MD)
Altmire	Capito	Edwards (TX)
Andrews	Capps	Ehlers
Arcuri	Capuano	Ellison
Austria	Cardoza	Ellsworth
Baca	Carnahan	Emerson
Bachmann	Carney	Engel
Bachus	Carson (IN)	Eshoo
Baird	Carter	Etheridge
Baldwin	Cassidy	Fallin
Barrow	Castle	Farr
Bartlett	Castor (FL)	Fattah
Barton (TX)	Chandler	Filner
Bean	Childers	Fleming
Becerra	Chu	Forbes
Berkley	Clarke	Fortenberry
Berman	Clay	Foster
Berry	Cleaver	Fox
Biggert	Clyburn	Frank (MA)
Bilirakis	Coble	Franks (AZ)
Bishop (GA)	Coffman (CO)	Frelinghuysen
Bishop (NY)	Cohen	Fudge
Bishop (UT)	Cole	Garamendi
Blackburn	Conaway	Garrett (NJ)
Blumenauer	Connolly (VA)	Gerlach
Blunt	Conyers	Giffords
Boccheri	Cooper	Gingrey (GA)
Boehner	Costello	Gohmert
Bonner	Courtney	Goodlatte
Bono Mack	Crenshaw	Gordon (TN)
Boozman	Crowley	Granger
Boren	Cuellar	Graves
Boswell	Culberson	Grayson
Boucher	Cummings	Green, Al
Boustany	Dahlkemper	Green, Gene
Boyd	Davis (CA)	Grijalva
Brady (PA)	Davis (IL)	Guthrie
Brady (TX)	Davis (KY)	Gutierrez
Braley (IA)	Davis (TN)	Hall (NY)
Bright	DeFazio	Hall (TX)
Brown (GA)	DeGette	Halvorson
Brown (SC)	Delahunt	Hare
Brown, Corrine	DeLauro	Harman
Brown-Waite,	Dent	Harper
Ginny	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hastings (FL)
Buchanan	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hastings (WA)
Burgess	Dicks	Heinrich
Burton (IN)	Dingell	Heller
Butterfield	Doggett	Hensarling

Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Mack
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul

McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam

NAYS—9

Chaffetz
Duncan
Flake

Johnson (IL)
Lummis
McClintock

Paul
Royce
Sensenbrenner

NOT VOTING—21

Barrett (SC)
Bilbray
Campbell
Costa
Davis (AL)
Gallegly
Gonzalez
Griffith

Hoekstra
Jones
Kirk
Price (GA)
Ruppersberger
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Scott (GA)

Sherman
Terry
Wamp
Wasserman
Schultz
Welch
Young (AK)

Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Taylor
Teague
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Townes
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members have 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1546

Messrs. CHAFFETZ and ROYCE changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 200, I would have voted “aye.” Unfortunately I was unavoidably detained.

Mr. GRIFFITH. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 200, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN REMEMBRANCE OF MEMBERS OF ARMED FORCES AND THEIR FAMILIES

The SPEAKER. The Chair would ask all present to rise for the purpose of a moment of silence.

The Chair asks that the House now observe a moment of silence in remembrance of our brave men and women in uniform who have given their lives in the service of our Nation in Iraq and Afghanistan and their families and all who serve in our Armed Forces and their families.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPPS). Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

RADIO SPECTRUM INVENTORY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3125, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BUCHER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3125, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 394, nays 18, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 201]

YEAS—394

Ackerman
Aderholt
Adler (NJ)
Alexander
Altmire
Andrews
Arcuri
Austria
Baca

Bachmann
Bachus
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett
Barton (TX)
Bean
Becerra

Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Billirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn

Blumenauer
Blunt
Boccheri
Boehner
Bonner
Bono Mack
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Braley (IA)
Bright
Broun (GA)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Buchanan
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cantor
Cao
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carney
Carson (IN)
Carter
Cassidy
Castle
Castor (FL)
Chaffetz
Chandler
Childers
Chu
Clarke
Clay
Clever
Clyburn
Coble
Coffman (CO)
Cohen
Cole
Connolly (VA)
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Courtney
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Dahlkemper
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Donnelly (IN)
Doyle
Dreier
Driehaus
Duncan
Edwards (MD)
Edwards (TX)
Ehlers
Ellison
Ellsworth
Emerson
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Fallin
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fleming
Forbes
Fortenberry
Foster
Frank (MA)

Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Fudge
Garamendi
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Giffords
Gingrey (GA)
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Gordon (TN)
Granger
Graves
Grayson
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Griffith
Grijalva
Guthrie
Gutierrez
Hall (NY)
Hall (TX)
Halvorson
Hare
Harman
Harper
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Heinrich
Heller
Herger
Herseth Sandlin
Higgins
Hill
Himes
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hirono
Hodes
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Hunter
Inglis
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
(TX)
Jenkins
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones
Jordan (OH)
Kagen
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kilroy
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Kissell
Klein (FL)
Kline (MN)
Kosmas
Kratovil
Kucinich
Lamborn
Lance
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Latta
Lee (CA)
Lee (NY)
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Loeb sack
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luján
Lummis

Lungren, Daniel
E.
Lynch
Maffei
Maloney
Manzullo
Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul

Markey (CO)
Markey (MA)
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (CA)
McCarthy (NY)
McCaul

McCollum
McCotter
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McIntyre
McKeon
McMahon
McMorris
Rodgers
McNerney
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Mica
Michaud
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Minnick
Mitchell
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy (CT)
Murphy (NY)
Murphy, Patrick
Murphy, Tim
Myrick
Nadler (NY)
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Nunes
Nye
Oberstar
Olson
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascarell
Pastor (AZ)
Paulsen
Payne
Pence
Perlmutter
Perriello
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Radanovich
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar

Sanchez, Loretta	Smith (TX)	Tsongas
Sarbanes	Smith (WA)	Turner
Scalise	Snyder	Upton
Schakowsky	Souder	Van Hollen
Schauer	Space	Velázquez
Schiff	Speier	Visclosky
Schmidt	Spratt	Walden
Schock	Stark	Walz
Schrader	Stearns	Waters
Schwartz	Stupak	Watson
Scott (VA)	Sullivan	Watt
Serrano	Sutton	Waxman
Sessions	Tanner	Weiner
Sestak	Taylor	Welch
Shadegg	Teague	Westmoreland
Shea-Porter	Thompson (CA)	Whitfield
Shimkus	Thompson (MS)	Wilson (OH)
Shuler	Thompson (PA)	Wilson (SC)
Shuster	Thornberry	Wittman
Simpson	Tiahrt	Wolf
Sires	Tiberi	Woolsey
Skelton	Tierney	Wu
Slaughter	Titus	Yarmuth
Smith (NE)	Tonko	Young (FL)
Smith (NJ)	Towns	

NAYS—18

Akin	Foxx	Neugebauer
Brady (TX)	Hensarling	Paul
Burgess	Johnson, Sam	Poe (TX)
Conaway	Mack	Rooney
Culberson	Marchant	Royce
Flake	Miller (FL)	Sensenbrenner

NOT VOTING—17

Barrett (SC)	Obey	Terry
Bliley	Price (GA)	Wamp
Campbell	Ruppersberger	Wasserman
Davis (AL)	Sánchez, Linda	Schultz
Gallegly	T.	Young (AK)
Gonzalez	Scott (GA)	
Hoekstra	Sherman	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1603

Mr. TIAHRT changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I have a privileged resolution at the desk and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland). The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 1249

Whereas, on March 4, 2010, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct issued the following public statement, “The Committee, pursuant to Rule 18(a), is investigating and gathering additional information concerning matters related to allegations involving Representative Massa”;

Whereas, on March 8, 2010, Representative Eric Massa resigned from the House;

Whereas, in the days following Representative Massa’s resignation, numerous confusing and conflicting media reports that House Democratic leaders knew about, and may have failed to handle appropriately, allegations that Rep. Massa was sexually harassing his own employees raised serious and legitimate questions about what Speaker Pelosi as well as other Democratic leaders

and their respective staffs were told, and what those individuals did with the information in their possession;

Whereas, on March 11, 2010, the House of Representatives voted 402–1 to refer to the Standards Committee House Resolution 1164. The resolution would have directed the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to “investigate fully, pursuant to clause 3(a)(2) of House Rule XI, which Democratic leaders and members of their respective staffs had knowledge prior to March 3, 2010 of the aforementioned allegations concerning Mr. Massa, and what actions each leader and staffer having any such knowledge took after learning of the allegations”;

Whereas, House Resolution 1164 also stated, “Within ten days following the adoption of this resolution, and pursuant to Committee on Standards of Official Conduct rule 19, the committee shall establish an investigative subcommittee in the aforementioned matter, or report to the House no later than the final day of that period the reasons for its failure to do so”;

Whereas, thirty-four days have passed since the House vote on the resolution that, had it passed, would have required the Standards Committee to create an investigative subcommittee. Nevertheless, during that time the committee has failed to establish an investigative subcommittee and has issued no public announcements indicating its intention to do so;

Whereas, during the past thirty-four days, numerous news reports have made public additional disturbing information about Mr. Massa’s actions and his staff’s attempts to bring their concerns about Mr. Massa’s conduct to the attention of Democratic leadership;

Whereas, the possibility that House Democratic leaders may have failed to immediately confront Rep. Massa about allegations of sexual harassment may have exposed employees and interns of Rep. Massa to continued harassment;

Whereas, as recently as this morning, the Washington Post published an article on its Web site and on page three of that newspaper headlined “Staffers’ Accounts Paint More Detailed, Troubling Picture of Massa’s Office”;

Whereas, the same Washington Post article also contained the following sub-headline: “Workers Felt Helpless”;

Whereas, in the wake of the aforementioned media accounts and a 402–1 vote by the House that should have signaled to the committee the seriousness of this matter, the continued failure by the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct to establish an investigative subcommittee has held the committee and the full House to public ridicule;

Whereas, clause one of rule XXIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, titled “Code of Conduct,” states “A Member, Delegate, Resident Commissioner, officer, or employee of the House shall conduct himself at all times in a manner that shall reflect creditably on the House”;

Whereas, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is charged under House Rules with enforcing the Code of Conduct;

Therefore, be it Resolved,

(1) The Committee on Standards of Official Conduct is directed to investigate fully, pursuant to clause 3(a)(2) of House Rule XI, which House Democratic leaders and members of their respective staffs had knowledge prior to March 3, 2010 of the aforementioned allegations concerning Mr. Massa, and what actions each leader and staffer having any such knowledge took after learning of the allegations;

(2) Within ten days following adoption of this resolution, and pursuant to Committee

on Standards of Official Conduct rule 19, the committee shall establish an Investigative Subcommittee in the aforementioned matter, or report to the House no later than the final day of that period the reasons for its failure to do so;

(3) All Members, officers and staff are instructed to cooperate fully in the committee’s investigation and to preserve all records, electronic or otherwise, that may bear on the subject of this investigation;

(4) The Chief Administrative Officer shall immediately take all steps necessary to secure and prevent the alteration or deletion of any e-mails, text messages, voicemails and other electronic records resident on House equipment that have been sent or received by the Members and staff who are the subjects of the investigation authorized under this resolution until advised by the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct that it has no need of any portion of said records; and,

(5) The Committee shall issue a final report of its findings and recommendations in this matter no later than July 31, 2010.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution qualifies.

MOTION TO REFER THE RESOLUTION

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I move that the resolution be referred to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Massachusetts is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, this is a matter that properly belongs before the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the motion.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to refer.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, this 15-minute vote on the motion to refer will be followed by a 5-minute vote on the motion to suspend the rules on House Resolution 1246.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 235, noes 157, answered “present” 17, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 202]

AYES—235

Ackerman	Boren	Cleaver
Adler (NJ)	Boswell	Clyburn
Altmire	Boucher	Cohen
Andrews	Boyd	Connolly (VA)
Arcuri	Brady (PA)	Conyers
Baca	Braley (IA)	Cooper
Baird	Bright	Costa
Baldwin	Brown, Corrine	Costello
Barrow	Capps	Courtney
Bean	Capuano	Crowley
Becerra	Cardoza	Cuellar
Berkley	Carnahan	Cummings
Berman	Carney	Dahlkemper
Berry	Carson (IN)	Davis (CA)
Bishop (GA)	Childers	Davis (IL)
Bishop (NY)	Chu	Davis (TN)
Blumenauer	Clarke	DeFazio
Bocieri	Clay	DeGette

Delahunt Kissell
DeLauro Klein (FL)
Dicks Kosmas
Dingell Kratochvil
Doggett Kucinich
Donnelly (IN) Langevin
Doyle Larsen (WA)
Driehaus Larson (CT)
Edwards (MD) Lee (CA)
Edwards (TX) Levin
Ellison Lewis (GA)
Ellsworth Lipinski
Engel Loeback
Eshoo Lowey
Etheridge Lujan
Farr Maffei
Fattah Maloney
Filner Markey (CO)
Foster Markey (MA)
Frank (MA) Marshall
Fudge Matheson
Garamendi Matsui
Giffords McCarthy (NY)
Grayson McCollum
Green, Al McDermott
Green, Gene McGovern
Grijalva McIntyre
Gutierrez McMahon
Hall (NY) McNerney
Halvorson Meek (FL)
Hare Meeks (NY)
Harman Melancon
Hastings (FL) Michaud
Heinrich Miller (NC)
Herseth Sandlin Miller, George
Higgins Minnick
Hill Mitchell
Himes Mollohan
Hinchey Moore (KS)
Hinojosa Moore (WI)
Hirono Moran (VA)
Hodes Murphy (CT)
Holden Murphy (NY)
Holt Murphy, Patrick
Honda Nadler (NY)
Hoyer Napolitano
Inslee Neal (MA)
Israel Nye
Jackson (IL) Oberstar
Jackson Lee Obey
(TX) Oliver
Johnson (GA) Ortiz
Johnson, E. B. Owens
Kagen Pallone
Kanjorski Pascarell
Kaptur Pastor (AZ)
Kennedy Payne
Kildee Perlmutter
Kilpatrick (MI) Perriello
Kilroy Peters
Kind Peterson

NOES—157

Aderholt Coffman (CO)
Akin Cole
Alexander Crenshaw
Austria Culberson
Bachmann Davis (KY)
Bachus Diaz-Balart, M.
Bartlett Dreier
Barton (TX) Duncan
Biggart Ehlers
Bilirakis Emerson
Bishop (UT) Fallon
Blackburn Flake
Blunt Fleming
Boehner Forbes
Bono Mack Fortenberry
Boozman Foxx
Boustany Franks (AZ)
Brady (TX) Frelinghuysen
Broun (GA) Garrett (NJ)
Brown (SC) Gerlach
Brown-Waite, Ginny Gingrey (GA)
Buchanan Gohmert
Burgess Goodlatte
Burton (IN) Granger
Buyer Graves
Calvert Griffith
Camp Guthrie
Cantor Hall (TX)
Cao Heller
Capito Hensarling
Carter Herger
Cassidy Hunter
Castle Inglis
Chaffetz Issa
Coble Jenkins
Johnson (IL) Moran (KS)

Pingree (ME)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Richardson
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Salazar
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schrader
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sestak
Shea-Porter
Shuler
Sires
Skeltan
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stupak
Sutton
Tanner
Taylor
Teague
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Wilson (OH)
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth

Murphy, Tim
Neugebauer
Nunes
Olson
Paul
Paulsen
Pence
Petri
Pitts
Platts
Posey
Putnam
Quigley
Rehberg
Reichert
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)

Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Scalise
Schmidt
Schock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shimkus
Shuster
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)

Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walz
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Young (FL)

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—17

Bonner
Butterfield
Castor (FL)
Chandler
Conaway
Dent

Diaz-Balart, L.
Harper
Hastings (WA)
Latham
Lofgren, Zoe
McCaul

Myrick
Poe (TX)
Simpson
Walden
Welch

NOT VOTING—20

Barrett (SC)
Bilbray
Campbell
Davis (AL)
Gallegly
Gonzalez
Gordon (TN)
Hoekstra

Lucas
Lynch
Price (GA)
Radanovich
Ruppersberger
Sánchez, Linda
T.
Scott (GA)

Sherman
Terry
Wamp
Wasserman
Schultz
Young (AK)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1628

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona and Mr. WALZ changed their vote from "aye" to "no."

Mr. FATTAH changed his vote from "no" to "aye."

So the motion was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. LUCAS. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 202, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

MOURNING THE LOSS OF PRESIDENT OF POLAND AND OTHER MEMBERS OF THE POLISH DELEGATION

The SPEAKER. The Chair would ask all present to rise for the purpose of a moment of silence.

Mr. LIPINSKI. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the gentleman from Illinois is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. LIPINSKI. We have all heard of the tragic events that occurred over the weekend in Russia where an official delegation from Poland, including President Lech Kaczynski, the First Lady, and 94 others, were killed in a plane crash.

This tragedy is made only more painful by the fact that they were traveling to commemorate the Katyn massacre, the 1940 murder of more than 20,000 Polish officers, intellectuals, and others by the Soviet secret police.

The citizens of the United States and Poland have a deep and long-lasting friendship based on mutual values and respect, and we are proud to call Poland a trusted and close ally.

Today we are joined by Polish Ambassador Robert Kupiecki and others from the Polish Embassy. As we mourn the loss of the President and other members of the Polish delegation, we extend our most solemn condolences to their families, the people of Poland, and those of Polish descent everywhere.

I now request that we observe a moment of silence to honor those who passed away in this tragic event.

MOMENT OF SILENCE

The SPEAKER. The Chair asks that the House now observe a moment of silence in solidarity with the people of Poland and in remembrance of those who lost their lives in that terrible tragedy.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JACKSON of Illinois). Without objection, 5-minute voting will continue.

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO THE PEOPLE OF POLAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1246, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 1246.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 404, nays 0, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 203]

YEAS—404

Ackerman	Blackburn	Cantor
Aderholt	Blumenauer	Cao
Adler (NJ)	Blunt	Capito
Akin	Bocchieri	Capps
Alexander	Bonner	Capuano
Altmire	Bono Mack	Cardoza
Andrews	Boozman	Carnahan
Arcuri	Boren	Carney
Austria	Boswell	Carson (IN)
Baca	Boucher	Carter
Bachmann	Boustany	Cassidy
Bachus	Brady (PA)	Castle
Baird	Brady (TX)	Castor (FL)
Baldwin	Braley (IA)	Chaffetz
Barrow	Bright	Chandler
Bartlett	Broun (GA)	Childrens
Barton (TX)	Brown (SC)	Chu
Bean	Brown, Corrine	Clarke
Becerra	Brown-Waite,	Clay
Berkley	Ginny	Cleaver
Berman	Buchanan	Clyburn
Berry	Burgess	Coble
Biggart	Burton (IN)	Coffman (CO)
Bilirakis	Butterfield	Cohen
Bishop (GA)	Buyer	Cole
Bishop (NY)	Calvert	Conaway
Bishop (UT)	Camp	Connolly (VA)

Conyers Jackson Lee
Cooper (TX)
Costa Jenkins
Costello Johnson (IL)
Courtney Johnson, E. B.
Crenshaw Johnson, Sam
Crowley Jones
Cuellar Jordan (OH)
Culberson Kagen
Cummings Kanjorski
Dahlkemper Kaptur
Davis (CA) Kennedy
Davis (IL) Kildee
Davis (KY) Kilpatrick (MI)
Davis (TN) Kilroy
DeFazio Kind
DeGette King (IA)
Delahunt King (NY)
DeLauro Kingston
Dent Kirk
Diaz-Balart, L. Kirkpatrick (AZ)
Diaz-Balart, M. Kissell
Dicks Klein (FL)
Dingell Kline (MN)
Doggett Kosmas
Donnelly (IN) Kravtsov
Doyle Kucinich
Dreier Lamborn
Driehaus Lance
Duncan Langevin
Edwards (MD) Larsen (WA)
Edwards (TX) Larson (CT)
Ehlers Latham
Ellison LaTourette
Ellsworth Latta
Emerson Lee (CA)
Engel Lee (NY)
Eshoo Levin
Etheridge Lewis (CA)
Fallin Lewis (GA)
Farr Linder
Fattah Lipinski
Filner LoBiondo
Flake Loebach
Fleming Lofgren, Zoe
Forbes Lowey
Fortenberry Lucas
Foster Luetkemeyer
Fox Lujan
Frank (MA) Lummis
Franks (AZ) Lungren, Daniel
Frelinghuysen E.
Fudge Mack
Garamendi Maffei
Garrett (NJ) Maloney
Gerlach Manzullo
Giffords Marchant
Gingrey (GA) Markey (CO)
Gohmert Markey (MA)
Goodlatte Marshall
Gordon (TN) Matheson
Granger Matsui
Graves McCarthy (CA)
Grayson McCarthy (NY)
Green, Al McCaul
Green, Gene McClintock
Grijalva McCollum
Guthrie McCotter
Gutierrez McDermott
Hall (NY) McGovern
Hall (TX) McHenry
Halvorson McIntyre
Hare McKeon
Harman McMahon
Harper McMorris
Hastings (FL) Rodgers
Hastings (WA) McNeerney
Heinrich Meeks (NY)
Heller Melancon
Hensarling Mica
Herger Michaud
Hersteth Sandlin Miller (FL)
Higgins Miller (MI)
Hill Miller (NC)
Himes Miller, Gary
Hinchey Miller, George
Hinojosa Minnick
Hirono Mitchell
Hodes Mollohan
Holden Moore (KS)
Holt Moore (WI)
Honda Moran (KS)
Hoyer Moran (VA)
Hunter Murphy (CT)
Inglis Murphy (NY)
Inslee Murphy, Patrick
Israel Murphy, Tim
Issa Nadler (NY)
Jackson (IL) Napolitano

Neal (MA) Neugebauer
Nunes
Nye Oberstar
Obey
Olson
Oliver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascarelli
Pastor (AZ)
Paul
Paulsen
Payne
Pelosi
Pence
Perlmutter
Perrillo
Peters
Peterson
Petri
Pingree (ME)
Pitts
Platts
Poe (TX)
Polis (CO)
Pomeroy
Posey
Price (NC)
Putnam
Quigley
Rahall
Rangel
Rehberg
Reichert
Reyes
Rodriguez
Roe (TN)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrbacher
Rooney
Ros-Lehtinen
Roskam
Ross
Rothman (NJ)
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Salazar
Sanchez, Loretta
Sarbanes
Scalise
Schakowsky
Schauer
Schiff
Schmidt
Schock
Schwartz
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Sestak
Shadegg
Shea-Porter
Shimkus
Shuler
Shuster
Simpson
Sires
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Souder
Space
Speier
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Stupak
Sullivan
Sutton
Tanner
Taylor
Teague
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thompson (PA)
Thornberry

Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Titus
Tonko
Towns
Tsongas
Turner
Upton
Van Hollen

Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden
Walz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Welch

Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wilson (OH)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Yarmuth
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—26

Barrett (SC)
Bilbray
Boehner
Boyd
Campbell
Davis (AL)
Gallegly
Gonzalez
Griffith
Hoekstra

Johnson (GA)
Lynch
Meek (FL)
Myrick
Price (GA)
Radanovich
Richardson
Ruppersberger
Sanchez, Linda
T.

Schrader
Scott (GA)
Sherman
Terry
Wamp
Wasserman
Schultz
Young (AK)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Two minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1648

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 4715, CLEAN ESTUARIES ACT OF 2010, WAIVING REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a) OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN RESOLUTIONS, AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. MCGOVERN, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-463) on the resolution (H. Res. 1248) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4715) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes, waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H. CON. RES. 49

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as a cosponsor of H. Con. Res. 49.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1549

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to withdraw my cosponsorship from H.R. 1549.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nevada?

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE CONSIDERED AS FIRST SPONSOR OF H.R. 610

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the first sponsor of H.R. 610, a bill originally introduced by Representative Wexler of Florida, for the purposes of adding cosponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I hereby notify the House of my intention to offer a resolution as a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of my resolution is as follows:

Whereas, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct initiated an investigation into allegations related to earmarks and campaign contributions in the Spring of 2009.

Whereas, on December 2, 2009, reports and findings in seven separate matters involving the alleged connection between earmarks and campaign contributions were forwarded by the Office of Congressional Ethics to the Standards Committee.

Whereas, on February 26, 2010, the Standards Committee made public its report on the matter wherein the Committee found, though a widespread perception exists among corporations and lobbyists that campaign contributions provide a greater chance of obtaining earmarks, there was no evidence that Members or their staff considered contributions when requesting earmarks.

Whereas, the Committee indicated that, with respect to the matters forwarded by the Office of Congressional Ethics, neither the evidence cited in the OCE's findings nor the evidence in the record before the Standards Committee provided a substantial reason to believe that violations of applicable standards of conduct occurred.

Whereas, the Office of Congressional Ethics is prohibited from reviewing activities taking place prior to March of 2008 and lacks the authority to subpoena witnesses and documents.

Whereas, for example, the Office of Congressional Ethics noted that in some instances documents were redacted or specific information was not provided and that, in at least one instance, they had reason to believe a witness withheld information requested and did not identify what was being withheld.

Whereas, the Office of Congressional Ethics also noted that they were able to interview only six former employees of the PMA Group, with many former employees refusing to consent to interviews and the OCE unable to obtain evidence within PMA's possession.

Whereas, Roll Call noted that "the committee report was five pages long and included no documentation of any evidence collected or any interviews conducted by the committee, beyond a statement that the investigation 'included extensive document reviews and interviews with numerous witnesses.'" (Roll Call, March 8, 2010)

Whereas, it is unclear whether the Standards Committee included in their investigation any activities that occurred prior to 2008.

Whereas, it is unclear whether the Standards Committee interviewed any Members in the course of their investigation.

Whereas, it is unclear whether the Standards Committee, in the course of their investigation, initiated their own subpoenas or followed the Office of Congressional Ethics recommendations to issue subpoenas. Therefore be it:

Resolved, That not later than seven days after the adoption of this resolution, the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct shall report to the House of Representatives, with respect to the activities addressed in its report of February 26, 2010, (1) how many witnesses were interviewed, (2) how many, if any, subpoenas were issued in the course of their investigation, and (3) what documents were reviewed and their availability for public review.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from Arizona will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

TAX DAY

(Ms. CHU asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. CHU. Mr. Speaker, Republicans want Americans to believe that they are the party of tax cuts. Sure, they are—tax cuts for the rich. In these tough times, their brand of tax relief wouldn't help Sue and John, working parents who are raising three kids and who are trying to make ends meet.

Yet this Congress knows that America's future can't be based on huge tax cuts for the wealthy. We have to give real tax relief to real working Americans, and that is just what we've done. We've done it for 95 percent of working families, saving them up to \$800 a year. We've done it by making it easier for young families to buy their first homes, saving up to \$8,000, and we've done it by making it easier for parents to save up to \$2,500 to pay for college. This Congress has passed 25 different tax cuts, saving American families over \$800 billion, and more relief is on the way.

The overheated rhetoric of the minority is not based on reality. By any measure, taxes are lower today than they were under their leadership.

RESPONSIBLE USE OF THE AMERICAN TAX DOLLAR

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, every American must file their income taxes by midnight tomorrow, and they understand that the United States Congress determines how much of their hard-earned money is taken for Federal taxes and how it is spent.

Since the Democratic majority and the Obama administration have been in charge of taxing the American people, we've seen a massive increase in taxes of \$670 billion and counting. Here are just a few examples:

Taxes on American families and businesses that don't purchase government-approved health care, taxes on medical devices, such as pacemakers and artificial limbs, taxes on businesses that provide pharmaceutical coverage for retirees, even taxes on those who go to tanning salons.

Yet, with all of these massive tax increases, the Democratic and Obama spending spree drove the Federal budget deficit to over \$1.4 trillion last year and has driven it to nearly \$1.6 trillion this year. To keep this spending spree going, they will be looking for even higher taxes. Just recently, one of the President's top economic advisers proposed a European-style value added tax that would hit every American, rich and poor.

Enough is enough. It is long past time that this Congress and this administration realized that we cannot tax and spend our way back to prosperity. How about a tax policy that we can believe in for a change? Let's get spending under control and reduce the tax burden on the American people.

NATION-BUILDING HERE AT HOME

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, after 8 long years, hundreds of billions of dollars of deficit spending and, most importantly, thousands of our brave soldiers killed or wounded, it is past time to reexamine our strategy in Afghanistan.

Instead of nation-building in Afghanistan, I believe we should be doing some more nation-building here at home. The American people deserve accountability in terms of how and when our troops will be returned to their families and in terms of how taxpayer dollars are being spent.

Today, Congressman WALTER JONES and I introduced legislation that would require the President to provide a plan and a timetable for drawing down our forces in Afghanistan and to identify any variables that could require changes to that timetable. I should

note that the bill does not set a specific date for withdrawal. The bill would safeguard U.S. taxpayer dollars by ensuring all U.S. activity in Afghanistan be overseen by the Inspector General.

We must aggressively go after al Qaeda and its allies wherever they are, but I am not convinced that a long-term occupation of Afghanistan in support of a corrupt, incompetent government is in our best national security interests.

I urge my colleagues to join us in this effort.

NUCLEAR WEAPONS IN THE HANDS OF TERRORISTS

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, two Middle Eastern newspapers reported today that Syria has transferred scud missiles to a terrorist group in Lebanon. This repeats actions by Iran and Syria in 2006 when they gave cruise missiles to Hezbollah. It shows that the Syrians and Iranians have no wish to control their arsenals. They will transfer any weapon they own to terrorist groups. These reports tell us two things:

First, the U.N. army that we sent to Lebanon in 2006 is an utter failure that makes no effort to stop the largest missiles from deploying next to their very own U.N. camps. Second, it shows that, once Iran makes nuclear weapons, it will transfer them to terrorists like Hezbollah and who knows who else.

THE IRANIAN NUCLEAR THREAT

(Ms. BERKLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. BERKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of great concern about the Iranian nuclear threat. As dozens of foreign leaders meet here in Washington to stop the spread of nuclear weapons, I am deeply worried that we are allowing the greatest potential nuclear threat in the world to go unchecked. Iran has repeatedly threatened to wipe Israel off the map. They have threatened to destabilize the entire Middle East and, with that, the entire global community.

In his last visit to the United States, former Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon said that a nuclear Iran "represents as great a threat to the United States, to Europe and to the entire Middle East as it does to Israel."

The rest of the world should not expect Israel to do its dirty work. I agreed with that then. I agree with it now.

If we want to avoid a nuclear Iran—and I believe we must—and if we want to ensure that Israel does not have to take matters into its own hands, we must immediately enact strong, effective economic sanctions that make it

clear to Iran that we will not tolerate this pursuit of nuclear weapons. The alternative is simply unthinkable.

I look forward to passing a strong bipartisan/bicameral sanctions bill so that the President may sign this bill into law as soon as possible.

□ 1700

JOB LOSSES DUE TO HEALTH CARE BILL

(Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from my district, where I had an interesting meeting with people representing one of my companies, that is one of the companies in my district that employs hundreds of people.

They told me that as a direct result of the passage of the health care bill and the reconciliation package they have laid off 75 people. Hundreds of jobs are in jeopardy. Why? Because they happen to work for a company called The Ed. Fund, a private sector firm that facilitated the availability of college, yes, loans. Thirty-one thousand people in this industry are in jeopardy of losing their jobs because we decided we needed to nationalize that industry.

It's not only the wrongheaded approach to the health care problem, it's an anti-stimulus, anti-job bill. Seventy-five jobs already lost in my district, hundreds in jeopardy, thousands across this Nation. Thank you very much, U.S. Congress.

SYMPATHY FOR THE PEOPLE OF POLAND

(Mr. TONKO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. TONKO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deepest sympathy to the people of Poland in the wake of last week's tragic plane crash and to express my support for the resolution by the gentlelady from Pennsylvania that we passed this afternoon.

Polish President Lech Kaczynski, along with his wife Maria, the First Lady, military chiefs, civil leaders from across the political spectrum, and senior religious clergy perished in Saturday's crash on their way to Katyn, Russia, to commemorate another great tragedy in Poland's history.

At a time when global and domestic strife dominate our consciousness, these leaders were traveling in a historic effort to heal the deep wounds of the Katyn massacre in Polish and Russian history. These were men and women who stood up to tyranny and helped shape their nation's democratic transformation, but this loss was not Poland's alone.

From the outpouring of support by our Nation's 9 million Americans of

Polish descent, including those in New York's 21st Congressional District, and my very own family, to the President and First Lady's attendance at President Kaczynski's funeral this Sunday, America stands next to Poland in mourning. The solidarity of the Polish people in their grief and their quiet resolve to carry on is an inspiration to us all. My thoughts and prayers are with the families of those who were lost and all those that they have led.

RENEGOTIATE NAFTA TRUCKING PROVISION

(Mr. DEFAZIO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DEFAZIO. The Obama administration has steadfastly refused to contest the improper and excessive tariffs of \$2.4 billion levied by Mexico because Congress terminated the cross-border trucking program due to serious safety concerns.

There is no drug testing in Mexico. There are no hours of service requirements in Mexico. There are no meaningful commercial driver's licenses issued in Mexico to know what the record of these drivers are. Congress overwhelmingly voted to terminate that program.

But it is rumored that next month when the President of Mexico comes to visit, the Obama administration is going to open the border full bore to Mexican trucks, jeopardizing the safety of the American public and jeopardizing millions of jobs in the trucking industry. They say they have no alternative, their hands are tied by NAFTA. Well, there is an alternative. And today I was joined in a letter to the President by 78 Members of Congress, bipartisan, saying renegotiate that one minor section of NAFTA that has triggered this dispute. Keep the current system.

The Mexican trucks bring the goods in 20 miles, they drop them, the U.S. trucks pick them up and distribute them in the U.S. No U.S. company wants to go into Mexico. And let's keep the Mexican companies out of the U.S.

HONORING LENORA "DOLL" CARTER

(Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is not often that you come to the floor of the House with joy and with sadness. And it is with both that I stand to honor a fallen friend, Lenora "Doll" Carter, a champion of a woman, and of course someone who led in our community.

Doll Carter was the publisher of the Forward Times newspaper in Houston, Texas. She and her husband Julius founded that newspaper in 1960, reporting on all of the civil rights matters, the assassination of Dr. King, the 1964

Civil Rights Act, and 1965 Voting Rights Act. And then his untimely death in 1971 caused this young woman and young mother, the mother of Karen and Constance, to take up the helm of this great paper. This paper became the third most read newspaper in the southwest after two of our major papers in Houston, and this lady became the doll of all of us. Her name clearly was a name that we favored.

Lenora "Doll" Carter was born in Arizona. But as her good friend John Smith said, Doll was not only a friend toward the advancement of African American achievement, overall she personified distinctive grace, character, and style as a champion for the common good. She was also my friend. She passed away this past Saturday. We honor her, we salute her. She is a great hero of America.

Doll, we will miss you. May you rest in peace.

TAX BREAKS FOR MIDDLE CLASS AMERICANS

(Mr. BOCCIERI asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOCCIERI. Mr. Speaker, can you imagine that the Democratic leadership in the United States Congress has given the largest tax cut to middle class America? Well, that is certainly not the narrative that you hear out there on the television shows and some of the radio shows, but \$288 billion in tax cuts for individuals and small businesses delivered with the Recovery Act.

Nearly 40 percent of that tax package was tax relief to middle class families, like the Making Work Pay Tax Credit, \$400 for a worker, \$800 per couple. Two hundred sixty thousand families in the 16th District are already benefiting. Eight thousand dollar tax credit for first-time homebuyers. Sixty thousand people in Ohio filed, totaling some \$402 million in tax credits. Expansion of the child tax credit. Up to \$2,500 in tax savings for families sending their kids to college. Two hundred sixty-four thousand Ohioans are benefiting. Five billion dollars to help businesses. Fifteen billion dollars to allow companies to carry over their losses.

This serves as a reminder that the recovery package is the single largest tax cut for American middle class families. Remember this tax day who was standing with you.

TAXES AND THE ECONOMY

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. You know, Mr. Speaker, I get a big kick out of my Democrat colleagues talking about how they are doing so much for the poor and underprivileged in this country and giving all these tax cuts. The

fact of the matter is the tax cuts that were passed by the previous administration are going to expire at the end of this year and the Democrats are going to let them expire, which means that in effect all those taxes are going to go up. That is a tax increase.

Mr. Volcker, who was in the Carter administration and raised interest rates to 21½ percent that put this country into a real economic spiral, he is now saying that we are going to need a VAT tax, a value-added tax of about 15 to 20 percent, which they are going to probably try to push through after the election. And a VAT tax of 20 percent would mean if you buy a \$10,000 car it is going to cost you \$12,000 because you have a \$2,000 additional tax tacked on.

This is a tax and spend administration. We have the biggest deficits in the history of the United States. And when I hear my colleagues talking about all the good things they are doing for America, I wish they would look at the unemployment rate and look at what people are taking out of their salaries and what this country is going through economically. It ain't what they are saying.

THE START TREATY AND NUCLEAR POSTURE REVIEW

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, I am here to recognize the new START treaty that was recently signed by President Obama and the Russian President and the recently released 2010 Nuclear Posture Review.

I believe it is important to realize that the Cold War is over, and it is time to align our nuclear policy with the new generation of security threats. The biggest threat facing our country today is having nuclear materials fall into the hands of an organization called al Qaeda. History has shown that building our nuclear stockpile has not deterred al Qaeda and other actors from trying to gain nuclear capabilities.

What we do need to do is to take smart steps to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons to those enemies and secure vulnerable nuclear materials from those who want to get their hands on that to do us harm. I believe the new START treaty and the 2010 Nuclear Posture Review are important steps in the right direction.

It is also important to note that America still has a very robust nuclear arsenal, and that as we work towards a nuclear-free world we will not take any action that would put our security at risk. Our country will be more, not less secure from these new initiatives.

HONORING MIAMI CHILDREN'S MUSEUM ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 25TH ANNIVERSARY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the Miami Children's Museum as it celebrates its 25th anniversary as an invaluable educational and cultural center in my district in South Florida. I would like to recognize the museum's stellar leadership team, including its chairman, Jeff Berkowitz, and its executive director, Deborah Spiegelman.

Since 1983, the Miami Children's Museum has fostered an environment for active learning and creative play for children of all ages. Thanks to the visionary leadership of Jeff and Deborah, as well as the dedication of the museum's staff and volunteers, the facility is now one of the 10 largest children's museums in the United States. The museum is also a leader in cutting-edge children's programming on topics such as environmental conservation, green technologies, and financial literacy.

As a grandmother, I know firsthand how important the Miami Children's Museum is for parents and educators seeking a safe and fun learning environment for their children. I wish much success to the Miami Children's Museum as it works toward the next 25 years of service to our South Florida community.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

(Ms. KAPTUR asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, our country observed Yom HaShoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day, this past Sunday, which recalls the global tragedy of state-sponsored systemic annihilation and persecution of European Jewry by Nazi Germany and its collaborators as well as millions more deaths of people who were of Roma extraction, the disabled, Slavic peoples, homosexuals, Jehovah's Witnesses, and potential dissidents.

I would like to include in the RECORD an article from the Toledo Blade in our district, a front-page story last Sunday entitled "Survivors Urge World to Never Forget Horror," which recounts the story of some of the heroic survivors in our district in Ohio.

In our country, 150,000 to 170,000 survivors remain today. The horror of the Holocaust has affected countless souls across this globe. Our district is home to persevering survivors like Mrs. Clara Rona, whose words I will place in the RECORD today, and so many others who never should have had to make this sacrifice, but she remains a woman of hope.

[From toledoblade.com, Apr. 11, 2010]

SURVIVORS URGE WORLD TO NEVER FORGET

(By Ryan E. Smith)

Living through the Holocaust was one thing. Remembering it is another.

Clara Rona still remembers the smell of human flesh being incinerated at Auschwitz, seeing smoke wafting through the air and knowing it was somebody's mother.

She won't allow herself to forget a moment—not the beatings, the hunger, or the baby who was killed in a toilet in her presence. At age 89, the West Toledo woman still talks openly about the horrors of which humanity is capable.

And yet.

"I wish I had dementia," she says, pleading in her Hungarian accent. "I don't want to remember."

Between 150,000 and 170,000 survivors of the Holocaust probably remain in this country, according to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, and there are fewer than a dozen believed to live in the Toledo area. All face the same dilemma: How to balance the responsibility of being the last living threads to the systematic killing of 6 million Jews with the pain of memory.

Today is Yom HaShoah, or Holocaust Remembrance Day. Now and in the days to come people will gather at events to urge the world, "Never again! Never forget!"

But Rena Mann won't be among them.

The 83-year-old has never opened up to anyone—not her late husband nor her children—about what she endured in two concentration camps during World War II. Maybe it's because it hurts too much. Or maybe it's because she's afraid the world doesn't want to know.

"Do people care?" the Sylvania Township woman asked. "On the one hand I don't want it to be forgotten, and on the other hand I feel that people are really, in the future, not going to care."

PAIN AND SUFFERING

Born in Berlin, Mrs. Mann was 12 and living in Poland when the war began. After her mother died of blood poisoning and her stepfather was trapped in a newly formed ghetto, she was sent to stay with family in another town.

This was no death camp, but already the terror had begun. She remembers being awakened in the night and sent to the market to watch Jews being hanged. Their crime? Baking bread, which was forbidden.

"As an example they were hung, and we all had to watch it," Mrs. Mann said.

Before she turned 14, Mrs. Mann was sent away to a factory and forced into slave labor. It was hard work involving water and spools of flax that left her fingers and feet frostbitten.

Mostly what she remembers is the hunger. There was a bit of bread that was supposed to last three days and some potato soup at night that might not have any potato at all.

"We got, like we used to say, too much to die from and too little to exist," Mrs. Mann said.

Two years later she moved to another camp, where she slept in an abandoned factory with broken windows, no water or privacy, and vicious guards who would kick and push. A Polish song written by her girlfriends still resounds in her head. It concludes:

Who knows if I'll ever see / My mother's tender home. / This is a song of despair, / Of Jewish pain and suffering.

"That song is always with me and I don't want to take it with me to my grave," Mrs. Mann said.

She never talked about the four years she spent in camps before being liberated in 1945. No one really asked.

"I am actually a coward," she said. "It's true. Because I am pushing it away, or have been pushing it away."

Maybe now, though, after all these years, the pain is far enough behind her that she can let it out.

EYEWITNESSES

Mrs. Mann isn't alone in her hesitation, according to Arthur Berger, senior adviser at the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. But as survivors continue to die at a rapid rate, it becomes more and more crucial to record their stories—in print or on video but also in person, he said.

"Nothing compares to a real person telling you about their own lives," Mr. Berger said. "No one can replace the survivors. No one, can replace the eyewitnesses to history."

Rolf Hess, 75, of Holland was one of those eyewitnesses, but he never spoke of what happened during the war until last year when a granddaughter interviewed him for a school project about his experience as an immigrant.

"That sort of opened up a can of worms on my part," he said. "It has been in the past, and it still is, a very difficult thing."

The native of Germany was not even 5 years old when the Nazis invaded Poland in 1939. Yet he has vivid, emotional memories of being separated from his mother after they were taken to a camp and split up from his father.

"We were at a train station, just my mother and I," he said, voice cracking. "That I remember. And she gave me a little book that I still have with some pertinent information, with my birth date."

To this day he doesn't know what happened to his family. All he remembers is rummaging through garbage at a children's camp looking for food and being scared to death, even after escaping to America in 1942 with other children as a refugee.

"I can remember in Cleveland where I was out in the backyard and I heard an airplane and I scurried underneath a bench for protection," he said.

Only recently has he started investigating his own past to fill in the gaps of his memory.

"I finally have come to grips with the whole situation," he said.

'DYING IN SLOW MOTION'

For Dr. Aron Wajskol, 85, of West Toledo, the question has never been whether to share his horrible story—the way his starving father died in a ghetto, how his mother perished at the death camp Auschwitz, how he nearly succumbed to the bone-crushing work of concentration camps.

For him, the question was how. How do you make someone understand what it was like?

"Its like describing being on the moon," the retired anesthesiologist said. "Hearing about the facts and truly understanding the facts are different things."

The son of a textile factory worker in central Poland, Dr. Wajskol remembers the restrictions that went into effect within days of Germany invading his country. His father's job was taken away. His school was closed. Jews were forbidden from using public transportation and forced to wear Stars of David to distinguish them from non-Jews.

"Many families who could afford [to] fled Europe," Dr. Wajskol said. "Mine couldn't."

Within months, the city's Jewish population was forced out of its homes and squeezed into a tiny ghetto. It had no sewer system and little running water. People were dying in the streets of starvation—Dr. Wajskol calls it "dying in slow motion"—and corpses went unburied for days.

"Even in death it was suffering," said Dr. Wajskol, who was 17 at the time.

His father was among those wasting away, and he eventually died of tuberculosis.

All the while, Jew were rounded up and deported. At first for work, later for extermination. When Dr. Wajskol was taken to a labor camp in 1944, hauling around 110-pound

sacks of cement while surviving on bits of bread actually seemed like a reprieve.

"At least death wasn't surrounding us," Dr. Wajskol said. "We knew they needed us. We were productive for them."

To keep himself going, Dr. Wajskol imagined that there would be an end to all of this one day, that he could go back to school, that he would see his mother and sister again. His sister managed to survive but had to watch her mother be sent to the gas chamber.

This continued for 10 months until he was evacuated to the Buchenwald concentration camp due to the Soviet advance. After spending five days locked up in a crowded cattle car with no food or water, where he had no choice but to sit on a dead body, he was released to something even more frightening: SS guards with skulls on their caps, terrifying German shepherds, and the skeletal faces of the prisoners.

"It looked like a nightmare," he said.

Here he learned the pain of standing for hours in the penetrating cold of winter without socks or underwear. In a subcamp where his first job was to even out rocks for a steam roller, he came to understand the Nazi goal of "annihilation through work."

Before long, he was on the move again, this time on foot to escape the approaching Americans.

"This was a real, real death march," Dr. Wajskol said.

They marched through patches of snow from dawn until the evening, always under the watchful eye of the SS, who were ready to shoot the slow or weak. Still, Dr. Wajskol and a friend managed to escape, dashing into the forest and running until they were out of breath.

Dr. Wajskol will never forget how he felt once the war was over.

"Feeling free after 5½ years of slavery, playing with death constantly, I can't describe it with normal language," he said.

But he tries. He has told his story to high school students and traveled to his old home in Poland with his wife and son.

"In the beginning it was very hard to relive all these things," he said. "[But] I strongly believe that it's important to talk about it, make people aware of it, because of the enormity of what happened."

TRINITY OF TERROR

As director of the Ruth Fajerman Markowicz Holocaust Resource Center of Greater Toledo, Hindea Markowicz knows about the importance of preserving this history. As the daughter-in-law of Holocaust survivors, she feels it too.

"I have worries because history in the schools is being taught so differently," she said. "It's lucky if they have a paragraph included in the history books."

The resource center, housed in the offices of the United Jewish Council of Greater Toledo in Sylvania, on the other hand, features hundreds of books and other educational materials. There are videos of local survivors and a book written by her father-in-law, Philip Markowicz, called *My Three Lives*, which includes his experiences during the Holocaust.

It's one thing to read about these events in books, quite another to hear about them from someone in person. That's why Mr. Markowicz, 86, of Sylvania has told his tale and why Sylvania Township resident Al Negrin speaks to students in Florida, where he spends the winter.

"I talk because I want people to know what was going on, so they have a chance, if something happens again, to prevent it," said the 86-year-old from Greece.

Mr. Negrin—whose mother, brother, and sister went with him to Auschwitz but were

immediately sent to the crematorium—recalls a trinity of terror: the German guard who stood threatening with a rifle butt, the civilian supervisor with a whip, and the fellow inmate in charge of the group armed with a stick.

"Everybody was yelling 'Arbeit! Arbeit!' Work! Work! Work! If you stop for a while to take a breath, one of those three objects will come over your head."

It was not sustainable and his father eventually succumbed while moving to another camp. It was just a week before the group was liberated.

"My father was weak, could not walk. I tried to get him with my shoulders but the German guard said 'No, you can't do that because after a while then you'll be weak,'" Mr. Negrin said.

"I left him in the side of the street. I kissed him good-bye, and that's the last time I saw him."

'HE NEVER TALKS ABOUT IT'

Norman Gudelman, 78, went about sharing his story in another way. He wrote it down.

It took more than six decades and some prodding from his wife, but he finally took his suffering and made it tangible. The result is a sprawling letter to his children on the occasion of his 75th birthday. It covers everything from his youth in modern-day Moldova to his escape to Palestine after the war to his arrival in America.

Mr. Gudelman of Sylvania Township remembers being carefree as a youth, despite the anti-Semitism that was prevalent around him. His restaurant-owning parents shielded him from the world's hate, at least until the Soviets arrived in 1940, arresting and executing Jews and banishing others to Siberia.

When Romanian forces returned in 1941 with the Germans, things were no better.

"Romanian soldiers came to our house, and ordered all the Jews out," Mr. Gudelman wrote in his letter. "Start walking. Leave the home, the business, our possessions and go."

He was 10 years old then. Today, Mr. Gudelman is happy to talk about his experience during the war, but there's a sense he'd prefer to defer to his written statement than relive—yet again—what happened in too much detail.

"He never talks about it," said his wife, Fanny. "I don't ask questions. I want it [to] come from him."

When he does speak, Mr. Gudelman can tell you about how the group marched endlessly from one camp to another, begging for food when there was a chance to slip away. In the camps, they crowded into windowless rooms and slept on cement floors.

"They wanted to get rid of us," he said.

It worked. He and his sister were orphaned within a year or two.

That may be what saved them. When the Soviets returned and chased the German and Romanian armies out, orphans were sent to ghettos to stay with Jewish families, Mr. Gudelman said. From there, he eventually made his way to the future state of Israel. Thanks to a relative in Toledo, Mr. Gudelman ultimately came here and became president of State Paper & Metal Co., Inc.

He decided to write all this down for posterity, he said, because, "sooner or later I'm going to forget, or sooner or later I'm going to pass away."

His letter's message is simple: "Maybe in your lifetime you will read books about the unbelievable cruelty of those times. Believe them."

FINDING HOPE

Then there's Mrs. Rona, who insists on picking away at the scabs of the past.

"I want to remind myself," she said. "They say I'm a masochist—my friends, my psychologist."

Her reminiscences rarely come without a few tears, but maybe it's for the best.

"When I'm crying, really it's good for me," she said.

The only child of a butcher in Pecs, Hungary, Mrs. Rona wanted to be an art teacher, but those plans were scuttled when the Germans invaded. Her family was relocated from its large house, and at one point they were living in a stable. Later they were among those taken to Auschwitz, 80 people squeezed into each rail car.

Mrs. Rona was 23—tough, young, and strong—but also naive. All she brought was a change of clothes and a bottle of cologne, which she used to wash her mother when she fainted. Mrs. Rona still regrets that she never traded the latter for water despite her mother's pleas.

"I feel guilty," she said. "I cannot forgive myself."

It was night when they arrived and they were divided into two lines. Her mother and aunt went to the left—"straight to the gas," Mrs. Rona said. Her father was transferred to another concentration camp and later died.

Mrs. Rona divided her time between several camps and remembers it as a dazed experience.

"You think about food, but nothing else. You become like an animal," she said. "One spoon of soup means one day's survival."

"There was electric wire. Some people ran into it because they couldn't take it and they got killed," she continued.

Mrs. Rona, who found out after the war that she could not bear children, is certain that it is the result of her treatment during the war. None of the women in the camp menstruated, she said.

When one woman gave birth to a child in the camp, Mrs. Rona said she was forced to be present as it was put in a toilet by fellow prisoners. Otherwise, both the mother and baby would have been executed, she said.

When the camp was evacuated in April, 1945, as the end of the war approached, Mrs. Rona said she was in no shape for walking. Desperate, she and another woman hid in the rain under some bushes and simply waited for the group to head off before dawn.

When she finally made her way to safety in Prague, Mrs. Rona estimates that she weighed about 50 pounds. She went back home hoping to find her father, but he was gone forever—along with more than 50 other family members. Only three cousins survived.

"I was so angry," she said. "Still the anger, it's burned me."

Even as she left for Palestine and made her way to Toledo, where she worked with children at the Jewish Community Center of Greater Toledo, that anger never left.

How could it when there were mass killings in the former Yugoslavia? Rwanda? Darfur?

"I thought after, when we got freed, the world will be so beautiful. They'll learn," she said. "They didn't because it's repeating the same things somewhere else in a different way."

And yet.

Mrs. Rona still speaks, making public her private hell. She does this because 65 years after the Holocaust she still has something that can offset the pain:

Hope.

DO NOT CANCEL AMERICA'S MANNED SPACE PROGRAM

(Mr. CULBERSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CULBERSON. Mr. Speaker, the Democrat Congress and this President have presided over the biggest spending increases in American history, created more debt than any Congress in the history of the United States, and passed unprecedented tax increases, so it's not credible to claim they're cutting taxes.

And there's near unanimous opposition in this Congress to the President's proposal to cancel America's manned space program. What the President's proposing would be like privatizing the United States Navy.

Imagine if America had to call up a private contractor and ask if we could rent the aircraft carrier *Harry Truman* to go to the Red Sea for a week. That's what the President's proposing on the manned space program. That's why there's unanimous opposition.

And, Mr. Speaker, 27 astronauts and NASA leaders have joined together in a magnificent letter they published in the Orlando Sentinel on Sunday, that strongly urges the Congress to drop this misguided proposal that forces NASA out of human space operations for the foreseeable future. They said, Canceling NASA's human space operations, after 50 years of unparalleled achievement, makes America mediocre and will eliminate our leadership in space.

[From the Orlando Sentinel, Apr. 11, 2010]

DEAR PRESIDENT OBAMA: America is faced with the near-simultaneous ending of the Shuttle program and your recent budget proposal to cancel the Constellation program. This is wrong for our country for many reasons. We are very concerned about America ceding its hard earned global leadership in space technology to other nations. We are stunned that, in a time of economic crisis, this move will force as many as 30,000 irreplaceable engineers and managers out of the space industry. We see our human exploration program, one of the most inspirational tools to promote science, technology, engineering and math to our young people, being reduced to mediocrity. NASA's human space program has inspired awe and wonder in all ages by pursuing the American tradition of exploring the unknown.

We strongly urge you to drop this misguided proposal that forces NASA out of human space operations for the foreseeable future.

For those of us who have accepted the risk and dedicated a portion of our lives to the exploration of outer space, this is a terrible decision. Our experiences were made possible by the efforts of thousands who were similarly dedicated to the exploration of the last frontier. Success in this great national adventure was predicated on well defined programs, an unwavering national commitment, and an ambitious challenge. We understand there are risks involved in human space flight, but they are calculated risks for worthy goals, whose benefits greatly exceed those risks.

America's greatness lies in her people: she will always have men and women willing to ride rockets into the heavens. America's challenge is to match their bravery and acceptance of risk with specific plans and goals worthy of their commitment. NASA must continue at the frontiers of human space exploration in order to develop the technology and set the standards of excellence that will enable commercial space ventures to eventu-

ally succeed. Canceling NASA's human space operations, after 50 years of unparalleled achievement, makes that objective impossible.

One of the greatest fears of any generation is not leaving things better for the young people of the next. In the area of human space flight, we are about to realize that fear; your NASA budget proposal raises more questions about our future in space than it answers.

Too many men and women have worked too hard and sacrificed too much to achieve America's preeminence in space, only to see that effort needlessly thrown away. We urge you to demonstrate the vision and determination necessary to keep our nation at the forefront of human space exploration with ambitious goals and the proper resources to see them through. This is not the time to abandon the promise of the space frontier for a lack of will or an unwillingness to pay the price.

Sincerely, in hopes of continued American leadership in human space exploration.

Walter Cunningham, *Apollo 7*; Chris Kraft, *Past Director JSC*; Jack Lousma, *Skylab 3, STS-3*; Vance Brand, *Apollo-Soyuz, STS-5, STS-41B, STS-35*; Bob Crippen, *STS-1, STS-7, STS-41C, STS-41G, Past Director KSC*; Michael D. Griffin, *Past NASA Administrator*; Ed Gibson, *Skylab 4*; Jim Kennedy, *Past Director KSC*; Alan Bean, *Apollo 12, Skylab 3*; Alfred M. Worden, *Apollo 15*; Scott Carpenter, *Mercury Astronaut*; Glynn Lunney, *Gemini-Apollo Flight Director*; Jim McDivitt, *Gemini 4, Apollo 9, Apollo Spacecraft Program Manager*; Gene Kranz, *Gemini-Apollo Flight Director, Past Director NASA Mission Ops.*; Joe Kerwin, *Skylab 2*; Fred Haise, *Apollo 13, Shuttle Landing Tests*; Gerald Carr, *Skylab 4*; Jim Lovell, *Gemini 7, Gemini 12, Apollo 8, Apollo 13*; Jake Garn, *STS-51D, U.S. Senator*; Charlie Duke, *Apollo 16*; Bruce McCandless, *STS-41B, STS-31*; Frank Borman, *Gemini 7, Apollo 8*; Paul Weitz, *Skylab 2, STS-6*; George Mueller, *Past Associate Administrator For Manned Space Flight*; Harrison Schmitt, *Apollo 17, U.S. Senator*; Gene Cernan, *Gemini 9, Apollo 10, Apollo 17*; Dick Gordon, *Gemini 11, Apollo 12*.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LUJÁN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE of Texas addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

RECOGNIZING THE JAY I. KISLAK COLLECTION AND LECTURE SERIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to acknowledge the contributions of a humanitarian and philanthropist from my area of South

Florida, Mr. Jay Kislak. A Florida resident for over half a century, Jay is known to be one of the State's leading citizens, with an outstanding record of charitable projects and personal achievements.

Jay's involvement in our community has included leadership roles in organizations like the Florida Council of 100, the Florida Historical Society, the Historical Association of Southern Florida, Mortgage Bankers Association of America, the University of Miami, the Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Miami Dade's Arts in Public Places Trust, Mount Sinai Medical Center, and the American Red Cross, among so many others.

Jay's participation in our community is only matched by his involvement in the preservation of Florida's dynamic history. Over the years, and together with his wife Jean, Jay has collected countless rare books, maps, and art that capture the history and the culture of Florida, focusing especially on the early years of European exploration.

Jay's collection is certainly one of the most comprehensive in the Nation. In 2004, Jay made an extraordinary gift to our country. He donated more than 3,000 of these rare books, manuscripts, and other objects to our Library of Congress. Known as "Exploring the Early Americas", this collection is now on display in the library's historic Thomas Jefferson building right across the street from us.

□ 1715

This gift is one of the most significant gifts ever received by the Library of Congress.

To give a sense of the extent of this collection, let me just name a few of the major pieces:

A vast collection of Mayan cultural and religious works and carvings.

The first printed nautical map of the entire world, the Carta Marina from the year 1516.

A 1524 map on which Florida is first named.

Original documents signed by the famed explorers Cortes, Pizarro, and Las Casas.

From 1598, the first atlas to include Florida.

The journal of Cabeza de Vaca in which he narrates his wanderings across Florida and the Southeast after his shipwreck off the coast of the present-day St. Petersburg.

Also, the 1589 hand-colored engraving by Baptista Boazio of St. Augustine, Florida, the earliest engraving of any locality in the U.S.

Also, one of George Washington's personal journals from his time spent at Mount Vernon.

And letters from John Quincy Adams and James Monroe pertaining to the purchase of Florida and to the foreign policy of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, these are just some of the major items that are in Jay's impressive collection.

In support of this collection, the library now hosts an ongoing lecture series, program of exhibitions, research, and public education programs named after Jay Kislak. And this week the Jay Kislak Foundation held one of its annual lectures right here in Washington at the Library. The event included historian Jonathan Spence, one of the foremost experts on modern China and the Sterling Professor of History, Emeritus, at Yale University.

Jay's philanthropy continues to abound in its breadth and its scope. Through Jay's substantial contribution, countless generations will be able to view a window into our past as Americans and as Floridians.

Jay, thank you for all that you have done and will continue to do on behalf of our Nation and our home community. Thanks from a grateful Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SKELTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

AFGHANISTAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, I join with several of my colleagues today as an original cosponsor in the introduction of H.R. 5015, legislation that would require the President to submit to Congress a plan and a timeline for the safe, orderly, and expeditious deployment of United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan, including military and security-related contractors.

This legislation would also implement greater oversight and planning measures to reduce our reliance on contractors in Afghanistan and to curb waste, fraud, and abuse in contracting practices which continues to breed corruption at the expense of the Afghan people.

I would like to thank Representatives MCGOVERN, JONES, and Senator FEINGOLD for their leadership and for their hard work and collaboration on this very vital legislation.

Also, I would like to commend Congresswoman WOOLSEY for her stand and her work for global peace and security. Tonight I understand is her 350th time coming to this floor sounding the alarm against these wars, and I would just like to congratulate her for her steadfastness. She actually introduced the very first resolution calling for the redeployment of our young men and women out of Iraq.

It has been nearly a decade now since I voted against the authorization for the use of force, and this was on September 14, 2001. This was an authorization, mind you, that I knew then was a

blank check to wage war anytime, anywhere, and for any length. That was a resolution that really authorized wars without end. H.R. 5015 provides the President and the Congress the opportunity now to change the trajectory of United States foreign policy from one of open-ended military conflict towards a strategy which counters terrorism and extremism around the globe in a sustainable and more effective manner.

I continue to believe United States economic and national security as well as our values are undermined by a military first strategy that many of us fear may lead us down a path of unending war in Afghanistan.

In September, 2009, General McCrystal stated very clearly, "If the people are against us, we cannot be successful. If the people view us as occupiers and the enemy, we can't be successful."

Top military officials and experts agree that winning the hearts and minds of the Afghan people should be the focal point of the United States mission in Afghanistan. Yet I remain convinced that this will not be accomplished at the barrel of a gun. With every death, with each increase in troop deployment, and with every additional military contractor airlifted into Afghanistan, we provide a rallying point for al Qaeda, whose propaganda depends on the perception that America's aim is foreign occupation.

It is our stated policy, and President Obama has said this many times, the United States does not seek a permanent military presence in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Yemen, Somalia, or elsewhere. We have already sent more than \$1 trillion to the Pentagon for the ongoing wars in Afghanistan and Iraq, and the administration has yet to provide an estimate for the long-term costs of the United States military operations in Afghanistan.

It has been estimated that roughly one-third, mind you, one-third of every tax dollar paid by the American people in 2009 went to the Pentagon and military related expenditures. The fact is we cannot even begin to talk about reducing the budget deficit without talking about reducing our military spending, and this legislation sets us down that path by ending a policy of open-ended war in Afghanistan that has ultimately made America less safe.

I have been clear in my conviction that the situation in Afghanistan will not be resolved with a military solution, and I think many agree with that. That's why last October I introduced H.R. 3699, which would prohibit any funding for increasing troop levels in Afghanistan beyond current levels.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee and as Congress considers the President's \$33 billion supplemental funding request for operations in Iraq, Afghanistan, and Pakistan, I will be working to ensure that Congress is provided an opportunity to go on record regarding this grim prospect, mind you, of continued military escalation. Rather than increasing our

military footprint in Afghanistan, setting a timeline for the redeployment of our troops and military contractors is the single greatest step we can take to empower the Afghan people and their government while stripping al Qaeda of our indefinite foreign military presence used to justify the insurgency and the acts of international terrorism.

So I hope we pass this legislation. It puts us on the right path to getting out of Afghanistan and to ensuring our national security.

SPENDING SINCE TARP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. I was in my office today, Mr. Speaker, and I was watching the Joint Economic Committee. And one of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle was talking about how one of his companies had 300 employees that were in entry level positions and they were getting minimum wage and the employer was telling him how they were going to have to lay a lot of them off because of the inability of them to get loans and for other reasons.

The reason I came down to talk about this is because there is no question that if we have a tight money policy that it's going to affect small businesses. In addition to that, when we load additional regulations and costs onto small businesses, it's going to cause them problems and they are going to have to lay people off.

I was reading in the paper this week the new health care bill is going to cost AT&T \$1 billion. They are going to have to take that out of their bottom line. It's going to cost the John Deere & Company \$150 million; Caterpillar, \$100 million; Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing, \$90 million; AK Steel, \$31 million; Valero Energy, \$20 million. All of these companies are going to pay for that, and they are either going to have to take it out of their profits or they are going to have to take it out of the hides of their employees by letting some of them go or they will have to send some of their operations offshore.

As long as we have more government and more government programs, it's going to cost jobs. Because somebody has to pay for those. The money doesn't come out of the sky. So if an employer gets a regulation that costs him money, if an employer is taxed and it's going to cost him money, then he has to find someplace to get that money in order to have a bottom-line profit, unless you believe the government should run everything and we should have socialism in this country or a socialized economy. And some people think that's where we are headed, and I think that is very unfortunate.

But let's just take a look at some of the things that the administration has done since they have taken office that have been a burden to small business and has cost us jobs.

Incidentally, I would just like to say that all the great programs and plans that the Obama administration had was supposed to keep unemployment below 8 percent, and it's still around 9½ to 10 percent and there is no indication it is going to go down.

But, anyhow, the Economic Stabilization Act, which part of it was this year and part of it was last year, in 2008, so we can't blame all of that on Obama, but the TARP bailout was \$700 billion.

And then in January we had \$73.3 billion in the State Children's Health Insurance reauthorization, a worthy program, but it costs a lot of money.

The stimulus bill was \$1.16 trillion when you add in the interest, money we don't have.

In February, we had the omnibus spending bill, which was \$625 billion when you add in interest.

In June, \$105.9 billion in the supplemental.

Last year we had the consolidated appropriations mini omnibus bill of \$3.55 trillion, again money we don't have.

And then in March of this year, we had the health care bill, which was estimated to cost, if you talk about 10 years of taxes and 10 years of coverage, about \$3 trillion or \$2.5 to \$3 trillion.

You load all this on the back of small business, and there's no way that you can continue to keep everybody employed. You're going to tax them.

Mr. WAXMAN, the chairman of the Commerce Committee, is bringing before his committee the CEOs of AT&T, Deere & Company, Caterpillar, because he says they really shouldn't be telling people these things because these aren't accurate figures. Well, they are accurate figures: the \$1 billion it is going to cost AT&T, the \$150 million it is going to cost John Deere & Company, the \$100 million it is going to cost Caterpillar, and on and on. They have to report that by law, and because they have reported it, Mr. WAXMAN wants them to come before the committee to try to make them look like they are blowing these figures up. The fact of the matter is business and industry in this country is suffering and because of that we're going to see more unemployment.

Now, you add to that by the end of this year the tax cuts that were put in by the previous administration are going to expire, and the President has said he's going to let them expire, which means those tax cuts are not going to be there. So that again will, in effect, be a tax increase. And then you add to that Mr. Volker, as I said in my previous 1 minute, is talking about a value-added tax of about 15 to 20 percent. That's going to be a terrible thing for the economy and for jobs.

So I would like to say to my colleagues, if you want to create jobs, cut taxes and cut spending. That's the answer. And cut government regulation.

FOR THE 350TH TIME . . . BRING OUR TROOPS HOME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, on April 20, 2004, I rose in this Chamber to say that we needed a new approach to national security. To say for the very first time before any other Member of Congress was brave enough to say it that it was time to bring our troops home from Iraq.

□ 1730

I have continued to speak out almost every night that the House is in session, but I never imagined that almost 6 years later I would be here to talk about Iraq and about Afghanistan for the 350th time. But that's what I'm doing today, and it's because our service men and women are still in harm's way in both Iraq and Afghanistan on missions that violate core American values and undermine American security.

We have come a long way in building a movement across this country that opposes these military conflicts, but still our leaders stubbornly cling to a disastrous policy.

What we're doing in Iraq and Afghanistan is disgraceful. It is a stain on our Nation. It will someday be remembered as a shameful episode in American history.

Seven years ago, Mr. Speaker, in fact it was 7 years ago this week, Baghdad fell. Remember? That was the moment when Iraqis were supposed to throw flowers and weep with gratitude that we had invaded their country.

But how did Iraqis recognize the sixth anniversary of their so-called liberation? With massive, colorful protests against the continued presence of American troops; protests that brought Shia and Sunni together; protests organized around the very idea that national unity against the U.S. occupation is stronger than Iraqi sectarian divides that are centuries old; protests that included the trampling of American flags; protests, in one case at least, that featured the burning in effigy of President Obama and Vice President BIDEN.

Meanwhile, one of the big developments out of Afghanistan this week is the death of several civilian bus passengers at the hands of American gunfire near Kandahar. This tragedy comes at the very moment and in the very region where U.S. forces are prepared to launch a major offensive. The push to defeat militants in Kandahar will require strong support from the civilian population, but instead, this incident has people taking to the streets shouting "Death to America" and "Death to Infidels."

Seven years in Iraq, 8½ years in Afghanistan, and we still haven't figured out that we can't win people's affection, loyalty, and trust by waging war on their country. To truly capture

their hearts and minds and also to defeat terrorism and make America safer, we need a smart security approach. That means empowering Iraqis and Afghans with civilian support and humanitarian aid, with programs to alleviate poverty, build schools, promote public health and so very much more.

The current approach is alienating the populations we're trying to win over and emboldening the very insurgents we're trying to destroy. How much longer will this go on?

There are American teenagers with no memory of their country not at war. We've already lost nearly 5,500 Americans to these conflicts. Thousands and thousands more have come home wounded, disabled, or suffering from the devastating effects of posttraumatic stress syndrome.

And as we all prepare to pay our taxes tomorrow, let's remember that every American is making a financial sacrifice for this folly. In just the time it's taken me to give this speech, we've racked up about \$1 million in costs for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

As long as this tragic and unnecessary war continues in both of these areas, I will continue to come to the floor of the House to state my firm opposition. I will not stop until our troops are brought safely home. I suppose I'll be giving my 351st speech tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE NEED RELIEF

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, in these final hours of this year's tax season, Americans are finishing up their tax returns. For a majority of these taxpayers, it's painfully clear that our Nation's tax system is deeply flawed and in need of significant reform.

American workers are asked to work for 3 full months to fulfill their yearly Federal, State, and local tax obligations. This is unacceptable. To require already stressed family budgets to forfeit at least a quarter of their income to prop up expanding bureaucracy and increasing Federal employment is just wrong.

We are taught at a young age to work hard and that we will reap the benefits of hard work. Americans have witnessed that government is claiming more and more of those hard-earned benefits from the fruits of our labors.

Instead of searching for a way to provide relief to American households,

some officials within the administration have proposed new taxes that will further burden small businesses and consumers. The European-style value-added tax would levy a tax at each stage of manufacturing, thereby increasing the cost of the finished product. This is damaging not only to the consumer, but also to many industries involved in manufacturing production.

I'm a member of the Anti-VAT Caucus. I recognize the dangers of imposing this new tax upon the American economy, and I've joined over a dozen of my colleagues in working to educate Members of Congress on the problems posed by establishing a whole new series of taxes.

Instead of adding new taxes, Congress should be focused on reforming the current tax structure. I've called upon the new chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), to schedule hearings on Tax Code simplification. The FairTax proposal was one of those ideas that I've asked his committee to consider. The FairTax can start the conversation on tax reform, and I encourage my colleagues who are serious about having this discussion to join me in contacting the chairman.

People across the country are demanding that Congress listen to their concerns and find a more equitable and less burdensome way of paying taxes. I share their frustration and have called upon my colleagues in Congress to put the politics aside and provide tax relief and reform for this country.

Americans have made it known that they are in need of serious tax reform. Through increased spending and budget deficits, Congress has awakened an American majority dedicated to government reform. Members of Congress have an obligation to be responsive to our people's needs. As the American people gather this week to make their voices heard, Congress must listen. These gatherings are occurring all over our country and here on Capitol Hill.

In my home State of Kansas, these engaged citizens will be meeting in Mound City this evening; Kansas City, Hutchinson, Salina, Manhattan, Wamego, and Wichita tomorrow; and Ottawa and Emporia will have meetings on Saturday. While these gatherings are occurring, millions of other Americans unable to attend will join in spirit to protest the expansion of government in our daily lives.

As we approach the end of tax season, Congress must remember the sacrifices made by each American household. While this is the end of tax season, the rest of the year should be deemed the season of tax reform. The American people need relief, and Congress should respond. Jobs today and the health of the U.S. economy tomorrow demand our action.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nevada (Ms. BERKLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. BERKLEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING THE LIFE OF CLEVELAND HEIGHTS POLICE OFFICER THOMAS PATTON II

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. SUTTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SUTTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Cleveland Heights Police Officer Thomas Patton II.

On March 13, Officer Patton was on patrol when he began chasing down a suspect. Tragically, he collapsed during the chase and died shortly after the incident. He was only 30 years old.

Officer Patton was the only son of my friend and our community leader, Ohio State Senator Tom Patton, and his late wife, Evelyn.

Officer Patton leaves behind a loving fiancée, Tricia, and beautiful 8-month-old daughter, Kayleigh Evelyn. Thomas meant the world to his family and was even nicknamed "Precious" by his five sisters.

It was without question what career path Thomas would take. He came from a family with a strong tradition of police officers that began with his grandfather, who joined the Cleveland Police Department in 1946. As a child, he would dress up in old police uniforms and dream of what it might be like to be a patrolman.

Thomas grew up in Strongsville, Ohio, in the heart of the 13th Congressional District, and he attended Holy Name School.

He saw the dedication and commitment that his grandfather and uncle made as police officers and decided to take that step for himself. He knew the challenges and risks, and he fully embraced the spirit of the job. He loved the excitement of working nights. He loved serving others, and he died doing what he loved. He died serving and protecting the rest of us.

Officers from nearby communities gathered outside his hospital the night he died, and many more at his memorial service. The sea of blue uniforms was a testament to the fraternal brotherhood of police that he embraced.

His spirit and dedication to his community will be sorely missed, but his service and sacrifice will never be forgotten. He will live on as a hero to his family, to Ohio, and the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. FOXX addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRICARE DEPENDENT COVERAGE EXTENSION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. Speaker, our brave men and women in uniform sacrifice so much for our Nation, and it is our duty to keep our promise that they have the benefits that they deserve and have earned through their service.

I know that many are familiar with the sentiment that a veteran, whether active duty, retired National Guard, Reserve, is someone who at one point in his or her life wrote a blank check made payable to the United States of America for an amount of up to and including their life.

We all know that the families of our men and women in uniform share the burden of this service to our Nation. To ease this burden, I introduced H.R. 4923, the TRICARE Dependent Coverage Extension Act.

H.R. 4923 would ensure that our Nation's troops and military retirees are able to provide health coverage to their dependent children up to the age of 26. This is one of the most popular provisions in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, the health insurance overhaul that Congress passed and that President Obama signed into law last month.

However, health insurance for our Nation's military servicemembers, retirees, and their families is under the control of the U.S. Department of Defense, so this benefit for dependent children was not extended to military families.

Contrary to some misinformation we've heard, TRICARE was not altered, changed, modified in any way by the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act. The good news is that H.R. 4923 would now provide dependent children of military families with the same benefits given to civilian children. Specifically, this bill would amend Title 10 to change the maximum age of coverage for children from 23 to 26, and it would take effect October 1 of this year.

Currently, in order for dependent children to remain in the TRICARE system, they need to be attending college full time and only up to the age of 23. However, the new policy in H.R. 4923 would allow all dependent children to be covered until age 26, whether or not they're full-time students.

I'm proud to tell you that that bill is supported by a growing number of veterans' service organizations, including the Military Officers Association of America, the National Guard Association of the United States, and the Air Force Association.

Mr. Speaker, allowing parents to provide health coverage to their dependent children is just one way we can show our military families how much we appreciate them. With each individual who generously dedicates their life to military service, there is a significant impact on those closest to them. We

know this especially well in New Mexico where we have a long and proud tradition of military service.

Each time a soldier leaves home, they leave behind caring husbands and wives, loving sons and daughters, worried parents and whole communities that remain concerned for their safety. Our military families stand behind our troops and lift them up. They make significant sacrifices just like our servicemembers do.

Let's honor their service to our Nation by ensuring that their health coverage meets the same standard that we have set for the rest of America and nothing less.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to cosponsor this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SMITH of Washington addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SESTAK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SESTAK addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. LARSEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LARSEN of Washington addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. TAYLOR addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. LANGEVIN addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

□ 1745

ISRAEL AND PALESTINE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCMAHON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCMAHON. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, I rise this afternoon to speak to a very alarming and disconcerting issue that continues to grow unchecked around the world, and that is the debilitating and negative effects that the Islamic Republic of Iran is having around the world.

Mr. Speaker, as we all know, we are very concerned about peace in the Middle East, and we know that it's very important that our great friend and ally, Israel, continue in negotiations with the Palestinians to come to a resolution of the issues that exist there. However, I believe we cannot expect success to come there unless we look at the role that Iran is playing on that issue and so many other dangerous issues around the world. It is acting in a way that is against the interest in our great ally Israel and our allies around the world and our Nation as well.

Mr. Speaker, indeed the Palestinian negotiations in Iran are very much linked, but not in the way that those who want to pressure Israel would argue. The connection between these two critical foreign policy issues stems from Iran's perceived veto power over the ability of Israelis and Palestinians to come to terms.

Acting as Iran's proxies, Hezbollah and Hamas are used to destabilize the region by engaging in hostile military activities or significant acts of terror at the will of the Islamic Republic. Furthermore, an environment conducive to peace is disrupted by the increased weaponization of the region. Already huge numbers of rockets have been illegally shipped to Hezbollah by Iran in violation of Security Council Resolution 1701. Likewise, arms and ammunition have been smuggled into Gaza and to Hamas through similar routes.

Thus, for those who want peace between Israel and the Palestinians, Iran must be brought under control. But it isn't just in the Palestinian Authority where Iran is making trouble. Iran is training and funding actors hostile to the United States in Afghanistan and Iraq and also providing lethal munitions such as materials used in the

IEDs to kill and maim our troops and allies. Examples of civil unrest throughout Iraq, northeastern Saudi Arabia, and even Bosnia have also been tied to the Quds force which conducts overseas operations for Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps.

And we must not ignore Syria's partnership with Iran either. Syria is a client of Iran and together with Hezbollah—an Iranian-controlled entity—in neighboring Lebanon, Lebanese Christians and moderate Muslims fear raising their voices against the Syrian hegemony over Lebanon, reversing the gains made in the Cedar Revolution that resulted in the end of the Syrian occupation of Lebanon.

Unfortunately, Iran's tentacles extend across continents and into our Western Hemisphere as well. Iran has entered into a strategic alliance with Venezuela, opening the path for Hugo Chavez to further his anti-U.S. activities in South America. And even more concerning, Venezuela is helping Iran circumvent the Security Council's economic sanctions and is also suspected of providing Tehran with uranium.

Finally, as smaller Arab states in the gulf witness the rise in Iranian power, a power which will be confirmed once it reaches the nuclear threshold, they too will follow this path and attempt to forge an alliance with this new regional superpower.

For this reason, Mr. Speaker, it is crucial that Congress move swiftly with the administration towards curtailing Iran's nuclear ambitions. Decades of inaction have allowed Iran's influence to sweep across the globe. We cannot allow Iran to move further as its influence creeps through our own hemisphere.

Back in the 1930s as the power of Nazi Germany grew, people like Winston Churchill sounded the alarm. But all too often that alarm was ignored.

The alarm is being sounded here in this Chamber and is being sounded across the world. We must act to stop the insidious influence of Iran around the world, and we must do it on every front. The time to act is now. And the way to act is, as I urge my colleagues, that we move swiftly to complete the passage of the Iran Refined Petroleum Sanctions Act and the Iran Human Rights Violation Sanctions Act which we must bring to conference committee and send to the President for signature.

NUCLEAR POSTURE REVIEW

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. AKIN. We're about to start on a journey on an interesting topic of discussion and one that has hit the papers and one that could very much affect the shaping of how the world develops and the safety of the world. And that is

the new discussion on the Nuclear Posture Review. That's a report that the Federal Government has just released along with the new START Treaty which the President has been working on negotiating with the Russians.

And these are talking about the future of our country, the future of our world, particularly as it relates to nuclear weapons or weapons of mass destruction. And the initial kind of read on what's going on sounds pretty good. We want to try to reduce the amount of proliferation of nuclear materials to make the world a safer place. We want to talk about a day when there won't be any nuclear weapons in the world. We want to try to, in general, reduce the amount of threat and risk to our own Nation and other nations.

And it all sounds pretty good when you first look at it, until you start to take a look at the troubling assumptions that have been built into these two documents. First of all, they call the Nuclear Posture Review the NPR and the START Treaty, of course, is going back to the 1991 historic treaty.

And so I'm joined here on the floor by some good friends of mine, some people who are good thinkers. But I think I will mention some of the topics that I would like to see us be talking about here in the next number of minutes. And I think we need to take a look at assumptions.

Many times people have good intentions, but the assumptions that are built in are not so good. There was once a guy who was a pharmacist and he had good intentions; but, unfortunately, he prescribed too much of a particular chemical and killed his patient. He had good intentions, but the result was the death of the patient. That could easily happen to many Americans with the false assumptions that are built into the START negotiations and this Nuclear Posture Review.

The first thing I would like to take a look at is going to be the world without nukes and is that a reasonable assumption; is that something that we should be working toward and exactly how are we going to produce this world where there are no longer nuclear weapons.

The next assumption is whether or not it's reasonable to trust Russia when you negotiate arms treaties.

The third question would be the overall whether or not we're going to be advancing missile defense and whether or not we're going to develop a missile defense. Is that connected to the idea of the START Treaty?

The fourth point would be does it make sense to say we're not going to develop any future nuclear weapons or devices.

And, lastly, to define when we might or might not use a nuclear weapon.

These are all kinds of assumptions built into these documents. I think they need to be discussed and discussed very carefully by those of us who are dealing with our nuclear posture.

I'm going to start off by recognizing my good friend, ROB BISHOP from Utah.

Congressman TURNER also is joining us, MIKE TURNER from Ohio. And I know that they have their own perspectives on this and are very well qualified in certain areas here, and I also have some charts we could go to.

But I would like to take a look at some of those assumptions because the devil is often in the details.

I would yield time to my good friend, Congressman TURNER from Ohio.

What part of Ohio are you from?

Mr. TURNER. Dayton, Ohio.

Mr. AKIN. A good industrial area, too. Good for you.

Thank you, MIKE. Please.

Mr. TURNER. I appreciate your leadership. We serve in the Armed Services Committee together so these are issues that we take up frequently.

We held a hearing today on the Nuclear Posture Review and on the START Treaty, and there are a number of things as you outlined that I think people should be very concerned about.

One, of course, is what they're referring to as the negative assurances where in the Nuclear Posture Review they've included a statement where the President has taken off the table the prospects of using nuclear weapons in defense of this Nation in circumstances where we are attacked by a nation that is in compliance with the nonproliferation treaty, and even if that attack is with either chemical or biological weapons.

Before we always had the posture of we'll do whatever it takes, whatever is necessary to defend this Nation. And the President himself last May said—he clearly stated, I don't take options off the table when it comes to U.S. security. Period. Unfortunately, this administration's Nuclear Posture Review does just that. It delivers a muddled message to both our allies and our adversaries that only seeks to weaken the strength of our deterrent.

It's really unclear as to why the administration has done this if you look at the issue of threat. Certainly the threat has not been reduced to the United States. So to take a posture where you're going to restrict what we would use in order to defend ourselves is not based upon some change that has occurred in the threats that the United States is facing.

They have said that they are pursuing this policy of restricting our use of our own defensive weapons in order to encourage others not to seek nuclear weapons. But there is no historical basis for that. The United States has continued to reduce the overall number of nuclear weapons, as has Russia. As we've seen, Iran is seeking to be a nuclear power; North Korea is becoming a nuclear power. Without any historical basis for an assumption that others would not seek nuclear weapons if the United States agrees to not use theirs, this administration has proceeded down this path.

Mr. AKIN. Could I interrupt for a second?

I think what you brought up is an interesting point. First of all, the President said all of the options are on the

table. And here we go again seeing him say one thing and doing the exact opposite.

It reminds me of a question. I'm a pretty old geezer. I've been around here for a while. I remember the Ronald Reagan days. And I remember it was kind of the height of the Cold War and people would ask him, Now, President Reagan, what would happen if this and this and this. And he would kind of look at people with his big old grin and he would say, You know, I've told you before, I don't answer "what if" questioning. Now, he said that in a nice way, but his point was why do we want to answer what if and then lock ourselves into some particular means of responding when it isn't really appropriate when the actual day arrives.

Mr. TURNER. That is what this policy is. It's a what-if.

Mr. AKIN. It's answering a whole lot of what-if questions. Why do we have to do that?

Mr. TURNER. The administration is saying the what-if is if this country is attacked by someone who is in compliance with the NPT, even if we're attacked with biological or chemical weapons, they would not use everything that we have in our arsenal that might be necessary in order to protect ourselves.

Mr. AKIN. So just stop for a minute. Let's do a what-if, because that's apparently what this treaty is trying to define, these what-ifs.

So some country has maybe signed agreements that they're not going to develop biological weapons. They do that on the sly, hit our cities with biological weapons and people are dying with some strange kind of virus or something running around, and we're losing a whole lot of population—and of course I think we have a pledge that we're not developing biological weapons so we can't respond with biological weapons somewhere. So what are we supposed to do then? We've already guaranteed them that we're not going to use nuclear weapons.

□ 1800

Mr. TURNER. Well, here is, I think, the most important thing. You invoked Ronald Reagan and you were saying how you shouldn't answer hypotheticals. I think here is what the blanket statement should be.

The blanket statement should be, when it comes to defending the United States against a devastating attack, our message should be clear and simple. If our Nation is attacked, we will use all means necessary to defend ourselves, period. There shouldn't be an issue of whether they signed, whether they agreed that they wouldn't develop nuclear weapons and so we are not going to use nuclear weapons.

I mean, first off, nobody is for using nuclear weapons. I mean, there is no advocacy group that says we need to be using nuclear weapons or no one, certainly—from a human value statement, the President's statement of a world

without nuclear weapons is something that everyone would want to achieve.

Mr. AKIN. Sure.

Mr. TURNER. It's the reality, though, of the issue of defending our Nation. And here this President has said, I won't take anything off the table. I will always do what's necessary to defend the United States. Period.

That was last May. And then now, with the administration's nuclear posture review, he is saying, but I am going to, in advance, tell you that if you are in compliance with the NPT, if you attack this Nation, if you attack the United States, even if you attack the United States with chemical or biological weapons, I am going to take off the table the nuclear weapons that are in my arsenal, even if it's necessary to protect the United States.

Now, they go on to say, the administration says, well, we have overwhelming conventional forces and so that will make a bit of a difference. We don't really need our nuclear weapons. But they say they are doing this to try to encourage others to not develop nuclear weapons. Again, there is no historical basis for it. As we have reduced our stockpiles and Russia has reduced their stockpiles, other nations have continued to seek nuclear weapons.

But the other issue is, what is the true message then to those other nations? Well, we have overwhelming conventional force. They don't have overwhelming conventional force. Certainly, developing nuclear weapons is an equalizer that they can look to.

I think it's disingenuous to say that we are not going to use our nuclear weapons, but we might change our mind, but at the same time we want you not to use them. But it's in that framework of the hypothetical of saying that this, this country, if it's attacked, won't defend itself to the full extent when it might be necessary.

Mr. AKIN. Okay, so it seems to me we have got a couple of different issues here that you brought up. The first question is, does it even make sense for us to do the "what if" question? If somebody does this, this, and this, well, we are not going to do that. What is that bias, you know, and is that really helpful? And particularly when these things tend to be nuanced the way they are phrased, it adds a lot of haze and uncertainty. But certainly answering that "what if" question probably doesn't make us a more secure country.

But let's go to what I think is your second point.

Mr. TURNER. Let me go back to that for a second. You said the administration is actually calling this an assurance policy, that they are providing assurances. But usually I think and the American people think of the word "assurance" being something you give your friends and allies. And, in this instance, this is an assurance that the administration is giving to a nation that would be an attacker to our Nation, someone who is attacking us.

That's not the circumstance of what I would think of assurance.

Mr. AKIN. Assurance to our enemies.

But the second thing was the idea that somehow we are going to move toward this world without nukes, and the way we are going to do it is to reduce not only our number of nuclear weapons but reduce our development or deployment of nuclear weapons. I mean, it sounds so good on the surface, but let's just take this apart a little bit.

Let's just say, you have got America now. We have a bunch of nuclear weapons, and we just say, hey, this is such a great idea. We are just going to get rid of all our nukes, and we are not going to develop any. Or we are going to get rid of a certain percentage of them, and we are not going to develop any new ones, which is what this treaty is supposed to do.

My question is, how is this going to reduce the number of nuclear weapons in the world?

First of all, think about there are 35 or more nations that depend on us to create this nuclear umbrella of protection. So they are not developing their own nukes because they know that the U.S. is going to protect them. So what are they going to do logically if that umbrella of protection of the U.S. having this overwhelming nuclear force, if we take that down, if you are one of those 35 nations, what are you going to be thinking?

Mr. TURNER. It's a very good point. Because those nations that depend upon us, who have not developed nuclear weapons, who believe that they are part of our nuclear umbrella, that they believe that we extend, in cooperative understanding, our deterrents for their benefit. If that deterrence is removed, then, of course, there is the prospect that these additional nations will feel the need to develop their own weapons.

Mr. AKIN. So we are reducing weapons, but these other nations are going to want to increase, so that doesn't really compute with the logic of this thing.

Now let's go to the next class of nations, third-world nations, maybe some of them that are more likely to be our opponents, adversaries, or troublemakers. Now we tell them we are going to reduce our number of nukes and our development of new things. What is their logical response to that? Well, let's see, they say, well, we could never whip them in conventional forces, so we have got to find some other way.

Mr. TURNER. Exactly.

Mr. AKIN. So what are they going to do?

Mr. TURNER. I think it's also a false accomplishment. When the administration promotes this statement of a world without nuclear weapons, again, it's a human-value statement that I think everyone would wish to be true. But in translating it then to a to-do list or a policy from the United States, going from a human-value statement to an actual to-do list and policy without a change that has occurred in the

world dynamics, that's where we get dangerous for the United States.

Here is the false accomplishment. This President will talk about his accomplishment of limiting the role and the number of U.S. nuclear weapons. I think what people are interested in is this President limiting the nuclear weapons risk that we are facing as a Nation.

Mr. AKIN. But shouldn't the focus be on U.S. security? Shouldn't that be the question? And are we going the wrong way?

Mr. TURNER. We will have to see what comes out of the conference that the President has held. He was identifying the increase, that threat that we have for nuclear terrorism and nuclear proliferation issues. And certainly those are the correct issues for him to be raising at this point, and we certainly wish him great success in accomplishing some visible reduction in the threat to the United States, besides just the visible reduction in the role and the number of U.S. deterrents.

Mr. AKIN. So the bottom line should be about U.S. security. I mean, that's what we should be focused on. Yet how does it get us more security if we reduce our nuclear capabilities and other nations than become encouraged to increase theirs?

Mr. TURNER. Absolutely.

Mr. AKIN. So there is a fundamental disconnect in the logic here somewhere. Understand that it's all for glorious and super ends and supposed to be a good deal and all, but how does it specifically help us and how does it increase U.S. security? That is not clear at all.

The idea of us reducing capabilities seems to be completely counterproductive. Because it's going to encourage either third-world adversaries to take advantage of our vulnerability that we created voluntarily on ourselves, self-inflicted wounds, or the people who are our friends are going to develop additional nuclear capabilities to protect themselves. So I don't see how this thing works.

Mr. TURNER. Congressman, you had also mentioned the the point of START and the issue of missile defense. I think one issue that people are concerned about that relates directly to this issue is any limitation on the United States' ability to defend itself in deploying what is a provable, workable technology in missile defense. The START treaty has in its preamble or recognition between the United States and Russia the correlation between defensive and strategic weapons.

The Russians have stepped forward and said that this language, they believe, was essential in order to get their approval for START, because they want the United States' missile defense system to be counted against the issue of our nuclear deterrent—their nuclear deterrent.

They haven't gone as far as to say that they might withdraw from START, depending on the extent to

which we deploy a missile defense system. Well, what's really concerning is that the administration, at this same time that they are agreeing to and pursuing the START, which has been signed, with language that ties missile defense to our nuclear deterrent, the administration is pursuing for Europe a missile defense system.

Now, it's unclear whether the President's own plan for a missile defense system already violates the Russians' concern under START. We may be in a situation where the President is pursuing a policy that will already cause the relationship with Russia start to be a terminal relationship. In the hearing today, I asked Secretary Tauscher, where are we with the Russians on this issue?

The administration already knows what they want to do with missile defense. It is certainly something knowable by the Russians at this point. The Russians are saying they will withdraw if the missile defense is pursued. My concern is that the administration will get down the road, where they will have supported START, received ratification of START, be pursuing a missile defense system that Russia objects to and that it might weaken this administration's resolve for deploying that system.

Mr. AKIN. The history of missile defense goes back quite a ways. It goes back to Ronald Reagan, who proposed the whole idea of missile defense; and people, liberals, tried to make fun of it. They said it was Star Wars, and it will never work, and it will destabilize relations between nuclear armed countries like us and the Soviet Union.

Ronald Reagan said, no, I don't think so. He said, we have a responsibility to defend our citizens, and we need to build a missile defense.

Of course, we, all the way through from the time of Reagan to when I came here in 2001, we had really not done it. President Bush went to the Russians, went to the Europeans and said, sorry, guys, I am going to let you know, here is your 6-months' notice. We are going to start developing missile defense.

And, of course, the Democrats had been opposed to it, but they were in the minority, and we passed it when we were on the Armed Services Committee to do missile defense. And it wasn't missile defense against China or Russia, but it was missile defense against these rogue nations like Iran and North Korea. So we built it. In spite of the fact people said you couldn't do it, we did it. Test after test, we did it, and we made it work, and we built missile defense. Then they made a treaty with Poland and the Czech Republic, saying we are going to deploy missile defense not just in Alaska but in Poland and the Czech Republic.

Thank you very much, Congressman TURNER from Ohio. I really appreciate your leadership on the whole area of national security. You have done a great job.

I am joined also by my good friend, ROB BISHOP from Utah.

But let's just get on this missile defense a little bit. So we built it, and we built a number of missile defense silos in Alaska. It was called a ground-based system, and it shoots a missile that's tremendously large, about 20-some tons of missile. It goes very high, very fast, and it has the capability of stopping intercontinental ballistic missiles.

Many of the trajectory of those go past Alaska where these missiles can do a good job of stopping the enemy. Now these same missiles were going to be put into Poland, into the Czech Republic. One was a radar site. One was an actual missile site. And the Obama administration decided to cut the ground out from behind our allies. They had made significant political—took a lot of heat from their own citizenry, got permission, got the support of their citizens to build these systems to protect Western Europe, particularly from Iranian ballistic missiles.

And the administration decides on very little notice, literally on the day where the Polish were observing the time that the Russians had come into Poland, and just cut the ground out from under them and said we are not going to do that. What are they going to replace them with? Oh, they said, we are going to use a ballistic defense system based on our ballistic missile destroyers.

The only trouble is, it was based on a missile that hasn't been developed yet, that doesn't work yet, and it's a 2-ton as opposed to a 20-ton missile, and it's a missile that we don't have. So now we are supposed to have these destroyers floating around the Mediterranean providing missile defense for Europe, and these destroyers don't even have the right kind of missile on them to stop a ballistic or intercontinental ballistic missile. The bigger the missile, the bigger the anti-missile that you have to have to fight it.

So the whole point of this was here you have North Korea. They fire these different missiles. The current range of the larger North Korean missiles is 3- to 6,000 miles. That puts Alaska in the sights and other potential targets from North Korea.

Likewise, we have Iran potentially launching, and you can see these different distances, depending on how much power the Iranian missile has, how many stages and how far it can go, starts to move into targeting Western Europe. This is what we were protecting against with the missile sites in the Czech Republic and Poland, which this administration has cancelled.

They have also cancelled a number of other aspects of missile defense which we will get into, one that was tremendously successfully tested just in the last few months. It's this aircraft here with this funny-looking nose, looks like a cyclops, and this is a very powerful, actually, three lasers in one. That was tested successfully to knock down

missiles; and, of course, to shoot a laser at a missile isn't that expensive.

□ 1815

You can get a lot of shots out of a laser and it goes very fast. It is a very effective way to stop missiles on the launchpad. So that's another thing that this administration decided that they were not going to fund. These treaties are talking about continuing that trend to reduce our investment in missile defense, and that is very troubling indeed.

My good friend Congressman BISHOP from Utah knows quite a bit about the specific missiles that do this, and I would like to call on your expertise to help us with this subject, please.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Well, I appreciate my good friend from Missouri bringing this issue up to us again, especially now that we're talking about missiles.

One of the things President Reagan once said is: Was the United States ever involved in a war because we were too strong? The answer is no. But what we're also talking about here is sometimes—as I was an old school teacher—when we're young and naive, we tend to overlook details, and those details could be devastating. For example, Napoleon lost the Battle of Waterloo not because he was outmaneuvered at Waterloo. He was not. He lost it because they overlooked a detail. They didn't bring a bag of nails. At that time, when you overtook the enemy artillery, you would dismantle it by driving a nail through the firing mechanism so it would be useless.

When Napoleon overran the British artillery, they didn't bring any nails with them. Consequently, the British recaptured that artillery and it wreaked havoc on Napoleon's forces. And every book of what would have happened always has a chapter of what would have happened if they had actually brought the nails.

Mr. AKIN. A bag of nails. Now, I appreciate having a history professor here. It's just a little detail, but it was an important and sort of a tide-turning detail that was not considered.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Now, let me turn that analogy slightly into the situation we are in right now, because I think this administration is missing a lot of bags of nails that are out there. One in particular deals with our missile program in the future if, indeed, the direction we're going is not the right direction and we want to change that.

You and I were here with several other Members last year a long time talking about our missile defense system, because last year we cut the potential of a mobile missile defense system, KEI. We stopped the ground-based missile defense system that we had, and we were complaining that that was probably an inopportune time.

One of the nails that we are now missing is what happens if we don't look at the unintended consequences of

our actions. I'm going to say how this thing kind of turns together, and sometimes I think this administration is not realizing how everything in government relates.

Last year, when we stopped the ground-based missiles and stopped the KEI, among other things that we did, we put the industrial base in disarray. Now I'm coming back to the old industrial base argument because I'm using it again and again. This year, NASA, space exploration, which you think has nothing to do with defense, but space exploration is trying to take this product, the Ares rocket, which was labeled our best innovation of last year, and they want to cancel the production.

Now, that ties together as a bag of nails simply because the people who work in the companies that produce this rocket also produce the missiles. So the rockets that are built to send a guy to the moon are built by the same kinds of people who build the rockets to stop a North Korean or Iranian or some other rogue missile from coming into this country. And if we devastate the industrial base, we don't have the capacity to change our projection and fix this problem if, indeed, it takes place, and we increase the cost to the defense of this country significantly because of it. Let me give you one example.

Just the oxidizer that starts the propulsion concept in our motors, that, because of the cuts last year to our missile system, has gone from \$5 to \$12 a pound. It's a fixed cost to produce this stuff, and we use it by the ton. And when you cut down the amount you use, the company then has to make a profit, so they charge more per unit. So we've gone from \$5 to \$12.

If, indeed, you stop the Ares 1 program in our space program, who uses this stuff significantly, that cost will either double or triple or be even more. So it means to produce the same motors we need to just maintain where we are, we are going to spend hundreds of millions of dollars—maybe running into the billions of dollars—without having done anything to improve our status. We will spend more money. We will not have a better product, and if we want to turn around and change that, we don't have the industrial base yet. If we fire all those people who are making these kinds of rockets, we don't have anywhere to turn for our own defense system.

The Department of Defense has recognized that. The Navy has said that they are fearful that the increased cost for them could be 10 to 20 percent. They don't know where the increase can stand if, indeed, we go along and cancel our space program.

Mr. AKIN. So let me just recap what you're saying.

If you don't have the industrial base to produce the kinds of missiles that we need for missile defense, the way that that can work is, one, you're not going to have the rocket scientists. In other words, a rocket scientist is a

rocket scientist. You've got to have some of them around if you want to make rockets. Those people are being employed currently for this particular solid rocket that is noted more for space exploration than it is for defense, but it's the same technology.

So, first of all, your industrial base is eroded by the fact that you can't keep those engineers around and they don't have anything to work on, so they go do something else. The second thing is, because you don't have the production facilities, now the cost of materials goes up.

And it goes beyond that, doesn't it? You don't just build one of these things in thin air. You've got to have a building to build it in. You've got to have the machines that are used to package the fuel and the design of how the pressure is contained, and how you control burn rate and the direction—all kinds of things that go into building a rocket; right?

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Yes. And our ICBMs, for example, need to stay there until the year 2030. That's their planned life. But what happens if you do one of those solid rocket motors and you pull it out to do the inspection and there is a problem with it? Where are the experts to go in and find out what went wrong, and how do you solve that problem in the future? Where are the niche suppliers who are no longer in the market? This is one of those things.

So I'm talking about nails for the future of our missile defense system that are being lost because we simply didn't think ahead—or this administration didn't think ahead.

DOD sent us a report last year that said if you slowed down Constellation, it would have a significant negative impact. Secretary for Acquisitions in the Department of Defense said that this industrial base is not our birthright. If we lose this industrial base, we may never get it back. And all of them are saying—General Keller said the same thing, that he is not comfortable with the direction we're going because the cost overruns that will come to the defense system simply means, obviously, NASA and Department of Defense did not talk one with another.

The Augustine Commission report that was supposedly giving a report on what we would do with our space in the future said, This is a problem. The industrial base situation is a significant problem if, indeed, you stop the Constellation program. You need to work that ahead. NASA did not do it. They either chose to ignore it or they didn't study the report very closely. Those are the nails we have.

So you have those pictures up there of what we are going to do with North Korean potential missiles that were in striking distance of the United States; Iranian missiles that could come within striking distance in the future but are definitely within striking distance of Europe now. And what is even more terrifying is if one of those countries—

and I don't think it would be beyond the realm of possibility—were to give their devices to some rogue player, not necessarily another nation, but some rogue player, and obviously have them aimed at the United States, and we, because we decided not to think through situations and think ahead of what we're doing, for either naivete, being new, or simply ideological reasons, we have lost the nails to make sure that we continue to defend this particular country.

Mr. AKIN. Well, the thing that strikes me about this whole situation is, first of all, if you want to deal with the nuclear proliferation thing, that's one thing, but to connect it to missile defense seems to be the height of stupidity, just really an irrational decision. And to walk away from the fundamental principle that the job of the Federal Government more than anything else should be the defense of this country, the security of the citizens who pay for that defense, and to give that idea up for the old concept of mutually assured destruction, just makes no sense whatsoever.

We were on the right track to develop missile defense. The people that said we couldn't do it were all proven wrong. We are doing it. We not only hit a missile with a missile, we hit a spot on a missile with a missile, metal-on-metal collisions. And not only have we been able to do that and shown that we have the technology to do that, but now what we're talking about doing is even going beyond that to the airborne laser system, which just this last year, firing its last shots before it was going to be shelved, it was called by the Democrats a big science experiment—I suppose that's a pejorative term saying we don't think much of it—and yet this aircraft flying off the west coast engaged two targets.

One was a liquid rocket motor missile. It was launched from some considerable miles away, in excess of 100 miles, I believe, and this airplane locked onto the missile with its—it has two small lasers. The first is just to find where the missile is, and it's putting that first laser on the missile. The second laser checks the optics of the atmosphere. The third laser, which is tremendously powerful, fires a beam, and it just destroyed that liquid fuel missile in air. Then it turns around and does the same thing to a solid rocket missile, and yet this is another thing that the administration is scrapping.

And the question is, if we're interested in U.S. national security, why in the world do we want to bow down to the Russians? Ronald Reagan was there at Reykjavik, and there was a great big idea that they were going to have this big treaty. Reagan walked away from it. He said to the Soviets, he said, Look, I'm not going to agree to that because I'm going to protect my people with missile defense. And here we are going back in history, and now we're going to stop this missile defense. And what you're talking about, Congress-

man, is a part of one of the supplier base that has to be there to do missile defense. Why are we going to dismantle that? It just doesn't make sense.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I agree totally with the gentleman from Missouri, who is such a leader on the Armed Services Committee. Part of the problem, nuclear soft power notwithstanding, we are talking about the overall defense of this country, and in area after area we tend to be weakening our position.

I agree with the gentleman that we should not have scaled back in our laser technology. I agree definitely that last year we made a mistake when we cut the kinetic energy intercourse program, those mobile rockets aimed to stop missiles coming at us. I agree that we made a mistake when we limited the number of ground-based missiles that we had, ready to go. The silos ready to be filled, we just simply stopped it, artificially, arbitrarily, and that puts us in a weaker situation.

I am also concerned that when you add to what they're talking about doing about on the Constellation program for NASA, it's not just about the manned space flights. It's also the impact that has on the industrial base that prohibits us from ever changing course in any of these other particular areas. It is all part and parcel with what I think is perhaps a very cavalier approach to the defense of this country that time after time after time overlooks the details and how those details interact and puts us at a more vulnerable situation.

Once again, no one will ever attack us because we are too strong. They could attack us because we have failed to bring a bag of nails into battle with us.

Mr. AKIN. Well, I really appreciate your perspective, gentleman, and particularly the little historic lesson of the bag of nails.

It seems to me sometimes our leadership is getting so grandiose and it's saying what we're going to do is provide a world without nuclear weapons. You know, it seems to me that what they probably should do is invest in a time machine and go back in history if they want a world without nuclear weapons, because we can get rid of all of our nukes.

We can open the kimono and let people beat us up, and that's not going to change the fact that there are going to be nations out there that are going to proliferate. Now, that doesn't mean we need to encourage them. We need to try and stop them. But we're not going to stop them by being weak and selling our own national security down the river, and that is what's going on here.

In an effort to apparently be a grandiose peacemaker, we're thinking you're going to create peace out of weakness. We have found that that is not a good formula, and particularly, to betray the security of the American people without looking at the details, as you're saying, really does not make sense.

□ 1830

Now, there is another aspect—and you know something about history. I recall all of these treaties we made with the former Soviet Union, and when the Soviet Union collapsed, we got information about what happened on those treaties. What we found out was that the Soviet Union was cheating like mad on every single one of those treaties. They said, We're not going to build any biological weapons. Yet they've got a biological weapons laboratory going in Russia.

We were over here, and I was a brand new guy in the U.S. Congress just a few years ago, and we were interviewing one of the top scientists who worked in the biological weapons laboratory, one which the Soviet Union had said, We're not going to do that. We find out 15, 20 years later that the Soviet Union has got these ballistic missiles loaded with the smallpox virus that they're going to shoot at us, and we haven't got the foggiest idea that they cheated like mad, have a biological weapons laboratory, and are going to pepper us with smallpox, which we have a limited amount of vaccine to protect against.

So here we are again, learning so much from history that we're going to make another deal with the Russians and assume they're not going to cheat on it. I guess my question is: How do we know that they're not going to cheat? What are we getting out of this deal?

Do you remember some of the history of those treaties, gentleman?

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I don't have the expertise right here to go through some of the details. Obviously, you're ahead of me on those particular ones; but it still goes back to the basic approach that, even if the Russians are legitimate in these treaties and even if they live up to them, we live in a world where it is not just necessarily the Russians for whom we have to be prepared and that, even if we make a treaty with the Russians, the North Koreans and the Iranians are not necessarily going to be cowed by us.

Mr. AKIN. They're not playing by the same rules anyway.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. They could easily transport some of their stuff to nations closer to us, which makes it even more deadly for us.

So what we have to do is make sure that, when we look at what we are doing vis-a-vis the Russians, we have to put it in the context of: Are we able to defend ourselves against all sorts of rogue players who are out there, not just the Russians or the Chinese? That's why the decisions we made this year, based on the decisions we made last year, I think, put us in a weaker position to say, yes, we could defend ourselves against the rogue nations as well.

Mr. AKIN. You know, I thought it was on the front page of the paper today, the idea that scud missiles had been given, I think it was, from Iran to Hezbollah or something like that.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. From Syria to Hezbollah.

Mr. AKIN. From Syria to Hezbollah, scud missiles.

So there was a weapons transfer to a group that is a pretty known terrorist group. They're not all part of this deal. So even if you could trust Russia, which I don't and which we have no historic reason to trust, what happens to the other nations when you make these deals, especially when you're not going to develop more missile defense?

There is another thing we're not supposed to develop either—and I really appreciate my good friend from Utah for joining us, Congressman BISHOP. You have provided really good detail, particularly on that industrial base aspect. Thanks for the “bag of nails” explanation.

You know, with regard to details, I do remember there was something about the German tank corps being unstoppable except for there was some problem. They didn't have the right type of spare fuel tank or something, and it was a big problem because they hadn't gotten the right kind of gas can to go along with their tanks. It was some small detail.

I yield.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. As we move forward with this proposed treaty, but also as we look to the overall military budget, which, I think, is what you're talking about as well and especially our missile defense, let us make sure that we have not left some detail uncovered. I hope that, in the future, they're not writing those “what would have been” books about the United States because we simply failed to be prepared and because we failed to look at the details of our situation.

So I appreciate the gentleman for bringing this issue to the floor. It is a significant issue, and it's one that this Nation should take seriously—looking at how we're dealing in the future not just with our nuclear posture but also with our missile defense posture. Indeed, if we're going to have to spend almost billions of dollars to maintain, that's money that comes out of the combat veteran and the combat ground forces that we have. That also is unacceptable.

So I appreciate being allowed to participate with you for a short period of time.

Mr. AKIN. Well, I very much appreciate your perspective and the clarity with which you make your points.

The Congress is a richer place because of Congressman BISHOP and his service to us.

We are joined by another good friend who is probably one of the foremost authorities on missile defense, my good friend from Arizona, TRENT FRANKS.

Before we jump into that, I thought I might just give a couple of points to recap and to focus our discussion here this evening. We are talking about two different things that have been going on in the news.

The first is the question of the Nuclear Posture Review, or the NPR,

which is an overall document released by the U.S. Government, talking about what we're doing with nuclear kinds of things. It contains a whole series of false assumptions, in my opinion. While it sounds good on the surface, the question is: How does it really work? Also, there is the New START Treaty, which the President has been negotiating with the Russians, and that is along the same lines as the Nuclear Posture Review. My concerns are pretty much listed in five points.

The first point is that somehow we are supposed to create a world without nukes, and the way we're going to do that is to reduce America's stockpile of nuclear weapons, not develop anything new, and cut back on missile defense. So we're going to reduce our own national defenses, and somehow that is supposed to help make other people do the same thing. My question is: Does it really do that?

The nations that depend on us will say, Oh, we can't count on them for a nuclear umbrella.

They're liable to increase.

Then the Third World country that may decide it wants to cause us a lot of trouble or to blackmail us says, Hey, the way we can do that is the U.S. is disengaged. We need to jump in and really develop our nukes.

So how do we get to this “wonderful world” without nukes?

The second point is: How much do you trust Russia? Even if you do, how about all of the other countries?

The third point is: Why do we connect missile defense to the nuclear posture? Missile defense is simply a way of making our Nation more secure. Why would we freeze that?

The fourth point is: Why would we want to limit further nuclear development? We'll get on to that in a minute with my good friend from Arizona.

Then the last question is: Why are we going to do what Ronald Reagan said you should never do, which is to discuss what-ifs? I think if we're attacked by a foreign nation and it does us harm, it doesn't need to know exactly what we're going to do. Everything should be on the table if you endanger U.S. citizens. Yet this treaty is going to say, Well, if you do this, we won't do this, this and this.

Why do we want to try and spell that out?

So those are five concerns that I want to make sure that we discuss today, and I want to recognize my good friend from Arizona, Congressman FRANKS.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Well, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

You know, I've been trying to follow some of the conversation here, and I think that everything you've said has a profound significance, and I appreciate it.

I know this is a general discussion about missile defense, about our nuclear posture and about the concerns that we have related to Iran. The recent summit that was here in Wash-

ington essentially, or ostensibly, was about trying to keep nuclear weapons out of the hands of terrorists. Yet the reality is that this ominous intersection of jihadist terrorism and nuclear proliferation has been inexorably and relentlessly rolling toward America and the free world for decades, and it is now a menace that is almost upon us. I believe that it represents the gravest short-term threat to peace and security of the entire human family in the world today; and I believe that the Islamic Republic of Iran, due to the jihadist ideology of its leaders, represents a particularly significant danger to America and her allies.

President Ahmadinejad was speaking to the whole world when he said that, You, for your part, if you would like to have good relations with the Iranian nation in the future, recognize the Iranian nation's greatness, and bow down before the greatness of the Iranian nation and surrender. If you don't accept to do this, the Iranian nation will later force you to surrender and bow down.

Now, that makes me a little nervous given the fact that Iran has recently begun to enrich uranium really beyond 20 percent now, which is four times the necessary enrichment percentage for peaceful purposes, and it puts them at about 90 percent of the way there for being able to have fissile material for nuclear weapons.

So I just have to say it's a difficult thing, especially difficult for me in some ways, because I stood at that podium there 5 years ago, and I called upon the country to refer Iran to the Security Council. The guess is, at that time, they had probably less than 164 centrifuges, and now they have 8,000. Of course, as my good friend from Missouri knows, 3,000 is the commonly accepted figure for a nuclear enrichment program that can be used as a platform for a full-scale industrial program capable of churning out dozens of nuclear warheads per year.

I guess I'll yield back here, but I would say this: what we are really facing with Iran is a jihadist nation with leaders who threaten the whole world, who threaten the peace of Israel, who threaten to wipe them out. It is now developing an industrial base to make dozens of nuclear warheads in the future.

I know people say, Well, that's over a year away or 2 years away or 3 years away. Well, let's pretend for a moment that that's correct. I'm not sure that having something that will change the world that dramatically and then all of humanity that significantly which is only 2 or 3 years away is cause for celebration. It's especially concerning when you consider the fact that, throughout history, especially in the case of, say, like North Korea, our timetables have always been wrong. We've always thought, well, it was going to take them a lot longer than it did. Anyway, at this point, I would just suggest to you that, I think, this is a profoundly significant issue.

I yield back to my friend, the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. AKIN. Well, I thank you, gentleman.

I'd like to just pick up on a couple of the themes that you've mentioned. You've used this phrase frequently. I don't know if you coined it, but I think of it as something that you authored. I guess you could almost think of it in terms of planets and astronomy, which is, when you get a juxtaposition of two things, the first thing you're talking about is the development of nuclear weapons, and the second thing is that it's in the hands of a terrorist state.

We already have nuclear weapons. We have terrorist states, but we haven't seen the eclipse of when those two things come together. You're talking about that as being a very destabilizing situation in the world, a situation that threatens the lives of at least thousands, perhaps many millions, of people; and it is a nation that has a history of essentially blackmail. So when you put that kind of combination together that you're talking about, we're talking about a very significant international kind of crisis that we have to be prepared for.

Now, they also have to be able to deliver that weapons system. That's another thing that you're really an expert on, which is that ballistic missile defense is also coming in. There are people who say you can just put this stuff in a suitcase and smuggle it into town. So who cares about ballistic missiles or ballistic missile defense? Yet, as you know, these nuclear weapons have to be delivered in some way, and there are different ways to deliver them.

One of them, of course, is to put them way up in the atmosphere, and they go off and take out all of your communications. Another one, of course, is to bring them over a city where they go off and they kill many more people than if they were sitting on the ground. So there are combinations of those things, and those are all things that you have studied and have taken a look at, and all of them are bad medicine.

What concerns me particularly is the reckless course of this administration as it's making these grandiose kinds of "we're going to make the world a safer place" ideas by disarming and by saying, "We're not going to be developing missile defense and by saying, 'We're not going to develop any new use of nuclear things.'"

One thing we've not yet talked about on the floor—and you can jump in on this if you'd like—is that we've got North Korea and Iran, both of which are pretty good at digging tunnels. They take their capacities and put them way underground. You can drop conventional bombs on them, and nothing happens because they're down in the Earth that far. The only way to stop that is probably with some new type of device called a nuclear Earth penetrator where you put a nuclear de-

vice, a small one, on a bomb that goes way down in the Earth, and it explodes. Now, anything radioactive stays down in the Earth, but it creates enough concussion that it basically shakes those tunnels and collapses those infrastructures.

That is an example of where we might want to develop a new nuclear device because of a problem that we have, and yet we wouldn't be able to do that with this negotiation. So are you concerned about that? Have you given that some thought?

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Well, certainly, I am, and I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The RNEP, or robust nuclear Earth penetrator, which you mentioned, was something that many of us advocated for in the past because we wanted to make sure that we could hold assets like Natanz or the facility at Qum in Iran. We wanted to be able to be sure that we could hold that at risk so that they didn't think that they could build nuclear weapons without any danger to them. This is a particularly significant situation, so I couldn't agree with you more.

Of course, you mentioned missile defense. You're talking about the delivery mechanisms as far as where the bomb goes off. That's a very, very important point; but there is another one, which is the timing. That's being able to deliver something realtime, in other words, on demand. See, that's what gives them a strategic capability, which is if they can say, "Okay, your city—New York, or whatever it might be—is 30 minutes from our ICBM capability, and it's always aimed at us."

□ 1845

See, if we have nuclear missile defense capability, then it is no longer as much of a strategic threat and it devalues that program pretty profoundly. And when a country like Iran, that is facing great dangers from the outside world anyway if they become nuclear armed like Israel or others, then perhaps that becomes a part of their calculus, and perhaps it keeps them from moving forward with their nuclear power program in the first place.

Unfortunately, this administration, and you know, I just got to tell you, this administration cancelled our efforts in Europe to be able to have the capability to interdict missiles coming from Iran, whether it was going to be to protect our forward deployed troops, or to be able to protect Europe, and certainly if they gain the ICBM capability, to protect the United States. And it is astonishing to me that we did that, because we have no system that can really be built in time to go into their calculus in the meantime.

So while some of the greatest security threats in a generation are coming up on our generation, the Obama administration seems to be busy insulting our friends and emboldening our enemies. And all the while taxing and borrowing and spending our economy

into a place of such vulnerability that our capacity to respond to these threats in the future will be demonstrably diminished. And when it comes to the growing incontrovertible danger of a nuclear-armed Iran, I would just tell my good friend that this Obama administration has been asleep at the wheel.

Mr. AKIN. That is really, really a frightening prospect. The thing that I find interesting about this, what we are doing is we are reducing our defense spending. Here is a chart of the budget that would reduce our national defense spending. These are numbers that were released by the Obama administration. This is the 45-year average at 5.3 percent. And what you can see is it is being reduced here.

Now, the thing that is amazing, this wouldn't be so troubling to me if it weren't for the fact if you took a look at what rate we are spending money. Bush's worst spending year was 2008 under the Pelosi Congress here. 2008. And that was about \$450 billion he spent that we didn't have, which put us, that is about 3.2 percent of gross domestic product. This last year, 2009, instead of being \$450 billion, it was \$1.4 trillion in spending that we didn't have. That was more than a three times increase over Bush's worst spending. And that goes up to 9.9 percent of GDP, which is the highest level since World War II.

So we are spending money that we don't have at an incredible rate. Take a look at what is happening to defense here. This is a wrongheaded set of priorities and very troubling. I have my good friend from Texas, Congressman GOHMERT, who is joining us. I know that you have taken a look at a number of these different issues and questions. Please jump in and point out your own perspective.

Mr. GOHMERT. Well, we do have the danger of Iran about to go nuclear at the same time, as you all have pointed out, that our President cancelled what took so long and took such great effort by so many, including our friends in Poland, to establish this missile defense that was going to be built. That got cancelled. That was going to help protect us. That was going to help protect our allies.

I just want to read here some of the comments that have been made. President Barack Obama said on November 7, 2008, "Let me repeat what I stated during the course of the campaign. Iran's development of a nuclear weapon, I believe, is unacceptable." He said on October 20, 2009, that the bond between the United States and Israel is much more than a strategic alliance.

And then you look at what Ahmadinejad has said. He said in 2005, quote, "God willing, with the force of God behind it, we shall soon experience a world without the United States and Zionism." He also said that Israel was to be wiped off the map. He said, "Like it or not, Israel is heading toward annihilation." He also said, "Today, the

time for the fall of the satanic power of the United States has come, and the countdown to annihilation of the emperor of power and wealth has started." It has started. And we are disarming unilaterally while Iran—we are talking about maybe some sanctions, like maybe that will work as well as it did against Iraq? It didn't work because people cheated.

Russia and China have said, hey, we're making a lot of money selling to these folks right now. We're not sure we're getting on board with this. And all the while those centrifuges are just a spinnin'. They are spinnin' while we're all here talking. And we're coming closer to the day when Ahmadinejad will be able to try to keep his promise, all while we are disarming. It makes no sense. We took an oath to provide for the common defense. It is high time we did that.

Mr. AKIN. I thank the gentleman for joining us. Thank you, Mr. Speaker. I look forward to seeing you next Wednesday.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET, AND COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TEAGUE) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Agriculture, Committee on the Budget, and Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 25, 2010.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Due to my recent appointment to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, I hereby announce my resignation from the Committee on Agriculture; Committee on the Budget; and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Sincerely,

ROBERT E. LATTA,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

COMMEMORATING THE POLISH NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank you, Mr. Speaker, and thank my colleagues who are joining us this evening, including Congressman JOE DONNELLY of Indiana, as we begin this special order commemorating the Polish Nation during its days of deepest mourning and the magnificent people of that country.

As we speak here tonight in this hour, in my home district of Toledo, Ohio, the Polish community has gath-

ered for a memorial mass that began at St. Adalbert's Catholic Church at 6:30 p.m. They and we here tonight are united in solidarity with our Polish brothers and sisters halfway around the world.

The Americans gathered tonight here in Congress, and in my home community, and the 9 million Americans of Polish descent across our Nation, in places as far flung as Chicago, Detroit, New York, Toledo, Las Vegas, in places like Pittsburgh and Philadelphia, and indeed in Colorado and Texas, from coast to coast Americans are united in our mourning and in the encouragement that we wish to share with the people of Poland in these dark hours.

Today the House passed unanimously House Resolution 1246, originally introduced by Congresswoman KATHY DAHLKEMPER of Erie, Pennsylvania, another community with thousands of Polish Americans. And for that passage, the ambassador from Poland, Ambassador Robert Kupiecki, sat in the gallery as each vote ticked off. And it passed overwhelmingly, with over 400 votes. That was an exceptionally emotional moment for me, as we as a Nation mourn the death and terrible loss of life that the Nation of Poland is bearing.

The resolution expresses its deepest sympathies to the people of Poland and the families of those who perished for their profound loss. The resolution expressed strong and continued solidarity with the people of Poland and all persons of Polish descent, and expressed unwavering support for the Polish Government as it works to overcome the loss of many of its key officials. And we know that Poland will prevail.

It is important to place on the record also that the plane that crashed in the Katyn Forest, an area that embraces the collective tragedy of Poland's precious leaders. In the most morbid of ironies, the doomed plane was flying to Russia to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Katyn massacre, when more than 22,000 Polish officers, intellectuals, leaders from all walks of life were summarily murdered at the hands of Joseph Stalin and the Soviet Army in and around Katyn Forest during World War II. Their bodies were buried and the truth hidden for seven decades. That is the truth of their slaughter. That history still must be made whole.

And I know that on May 5, in a strange twist of fate, at the Library of Congress, with the help of the Kosciuszko Foundation, there had been planned a special all-day seminar, which will continue, on the Katyn massacre. I think that it will be even more well attended than was originally anticipated. We thank the Library of Congress, its director, James Billington, and the Kosciuszko Foundation from New York for their presence and their leadership in this effort.

Before I turn to my colleagues who are on the floor tonight, let me just read a brief poem called "Buttons" by Zbigniew Herbert. What it talks about

is the original Katyn massacre and how little is known about it in the outside world, and what a responsibility we have to document what happened there. The poem is brief, but it reads as follows:

They come from depths upon the surface

The only tribute on their graves.

They are attesting God will count

Extend his mercy upon them.

But how to raise from the dead

If they're a clammy piece of earth.

A bird flew over, a cloud is passing

A leaf is dropping, a mallow grows

Heavens above are filled with silence

The Katyn Forest smokes with fog.

Only the buttons did not yield

Powerful voice of silenced choirs,

Only the buttons did not yield

Buttons from coats and uniforms.

I would like to yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY) who was proudly here today to cast his vote for the resolution for such time as he may need.

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. I want to thank my good friend from Ohio.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of the 96 people who died so tragically in the plane crash near Smolensk, Russia, on Saturday, to stand here in solidarity with the Polish people during their time of immense loss. This is a time of sorrow for both our nations. And I extend my deepest sympathy to the Polish people.

The plane crash near Smolensk took the lives of many of Poland's leaders traveling to memorialize the 70th anniversary of the Katyn Forest massacre, as my good friend from Ohio had mentioned, where during World War II the Soviets executed approximately 22,000 Polish servicemembers, public servants, and citizens. Sadly, that site now claims the blood of more great Poles.

Killed on Saturday were President Lech Kaczynski, the First Lady, the governor of Poland's central bank, 12 members of parliament, four generals, many other key leaders, and great Polish citizens such as Anna Walentynowicz, the labor activist whose firing at the Gdansk shipyard helped spark the Solidarity strike.

President Kaczynski was a great leader of Poland and a close, important friend of the United States. The son of Polish freedom fighters, Lech Kaczynski was an active leader within the Solidarity movement for democratic reforms in Poland, which eventually led to free elections on June 4, 1989.

Elected President in 2005, President Kaczynski was a tireless advocate for stronger ties with the west and expanding NATO membership in Eastern Europe. He strengthened the cooperation between Poland and the United States, and his loss will be felt both in Poland and here in America.

Mr. Speaker, during the time of loss for the Polish people, I believe it is especially important that the United States work closely with the people of Poland on issues of mutual importance

and that we assist their government in any way possible.

I am honored to have joined the House of Representatives today in passing House Resolution 1246, which expressed this Chamber's sympathy to the people of Poland for their loss, and pledging continued solidarity with the people of Poland and persons of Polish descent.

□ 1900

Let us use this tragedy as an opportunity to recognize and celebrate the friendship between our two nations. As we know, Poland and the United States have had a long and important friendship based on solidarity together. In fact, at our Nation's very birth, Kazimier Pulaski, the great Polish cavalry officer, helped lead Americans in victories over the British and saved the life of George Washington. Polish Americans have contributed to the rich fabric of our Nation both throughout our history and today as vibrant and accomplished Americans, proud of their heritage and proud of their culture.

To my good friend from Ohio, as you have so many wonderful Polish-American communities in your district, in my district, South Bend, Mishawaka, Michigan City, La Porte, all of those wonderful cities in Indiana are home to over 10,000 Polish Americans, and many more Hoosiers can trace their roots to Poland and many more Hoosiers throughout my district can trace their roots to Poland.

Poland is a crucial American ally. The role of Solidarity, led by Lech Walesa, and the support of Pope John Paul II were instrumental in bringing about a peaceful end to the Cold War and an end to communism in Europe. Since the fall of the Iron Curtain, Poland has worked closely with the United States, joining NATO in 1999, contributing troops to the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and agreeing to cooperate with us on missile defense. Poland has instituted modern democratic and capitalist reforms, opening their country, economy, and their hearts to the world.

Mr. Speaker, let us remember those who perished in this past weekend's tragic disaster, and let us honor their lives and their contributions by continuing America's strong and unbreakable friendship with Poland for all the years to come.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank the gentleman for his very, very heartfelt remarks this evening and for taking time after such a busy day to pay tribute to the nation of Poland and the people of Poland and citizens from his district and for sharing their grief and for offering a word of hope and encouragement for the future. We thank you so very much for your participation.

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. It is a bond of friendship that has been strengthened year after year, born in Poland's struggles and America's struggles, a bond of solidarity that can

never be broken. And we are both so proud to represent districts where we have so many Polish-American citizens who are so proud of their ancestry and who take such great pride in the roots that they have.

Ms. KAPTUR. As we think about what happened in Poland, we also experienced during this period now a peaceful transition of government. According to their constitution, as the Speaker of their Parliament, Bronislaw Komorowski assumed the office of President. And we can see through the magic of television thousands of Poles paying their respects to their lost President and First Lady in front of the Presidential Palace, and it's all peaceful in that great liberty loving land of Poland. And as the gentleman from Indiana has well stated, freedom-loving people who saw their nation wiped off the map of Europe for over a hundred years and then during World War II their nation partitioned and then the great struggle that they endured beginning with labor strikes during the 1950s in places like Poznan to begin to try to roll back that Iron Curtain, we are just so proud to be an ally of this great Nation of Poland.

I yield to the fine Member from Arizona, Congressman TRENT FRANKS, a leader in defense issues and so many other issues, who has come to the floor tonight to pay tribute.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I thank the gentlewoman so warmly.

It's very difficult for me to add anything to the very touching words of the gentleman from Indiana and from the very kind and loving words of the gentlewoman from Ohio. This is one of those issues, obviously, where we stand together, and it transcends any political parties. And tonight we mourn with Poland because they have shown themselves to be some of the most brave, noble people in the history of humanity; and I can't express just, as with you, how we are all deeply saddened by the tragedy that has befallen them.

Now, just this past Saturday, of course, it doesn't seem like it could have happened that recently, but we were all stunned when the Polish Air Force flight carrying 96 passengers, of course including the Polish President, Lech Kaczynski, and his wife, Maria. They went home together. The Polish Military Joint Chiefs of Staff, the head of Poland's National Security Bureau, and numerous other Polish public servants, all of them crashed and their lives ended suddenly, and I suppose it's a reminder to all of us of our own mortality and also a reminder to us of how difficult it is to lose people that have led such a noble country.

Now, of course, it's impossible for any of us to stand here and say anything that will really make sense of such an unexpected tragedy. But as Americans continue to stand in solidarity with the Polish people and with the families and friends of those taken all too soon by Saturday's crash, per-

haps we can come away from this horrific event reminded uniquely of that strong bond that both of you spoke of that's shared by the United States and Poland.

And I am reminded of the words of G.K. Chesterton reflecting upon the value of an ally. He said, "There are no words to express the abyss between isolation and having just one ally. It may be conceded to the mathematicians that four is twice two. But two is not twice one; two is two thousand times one."

I think in a sense throughout history when we have had a firm knowledge that Poland stood with America for the cause of freedom it always made us feel like we were outnumbered, whoever was before us, and there can sometimes be a tendency among those of us in public service to focus our attention almost exclusively on the bad things that are happening all around us and all the wrongs that need to be righted. But sometimes in doing so, perhaps we occasionally lose sight of all the good things, the friends that we have in the world that share our common commitment to the ideal of freedom for everyone. And truly the United States has and has always had that kind of an ally in the nation of Poland, a friend that has continuously provided strong support to the United States both diplomatically and militarily.

And, of course, as both of you have said, it's a tragic irony that those on board the Polish air flight were on their way to remember another dark day in their nation's history 70 years ago when 20,000 of their precious predecessors of Poles were brutally killed by a Communist regime. But because of those experiences, the people of Poland, including President Lech Kaczynski, who from a young age fought against the forces of communism within Poland, they have been a freedom-loving people who understand as well as perhaps anyone what it means for a brutal regime to attempt forcibly to suppress the light of liberty, and that shared value goes to the heart of what our Founding Fathers in America believed when they established this great Nation.

So, Mr. Speaker and the gentlewoman from Ohio and the gentleman from Indiana, I just want to stand with you and hope all of us take time to remember this steadfast alliance between Poland and the United States of America. They are our friends, and the families of those on board the crash we know tonight mourn the premature death of their loved ones. But every American stands together with them in saying that the nation of Poland and those most directly affected by this tragedy remain deeply in our prayers.

God bless Poland and God bless both of you.

Ms. KAPTUR. Congressman FRANKS, I want to thank you so very much. I know what a long day you have had. You began on C-SPAN this morning, I believe, and you have worked way over

time today. And to join us here this evening and to pay tribute particularly with your responsibilities in the area of defense, I know that the people of Poland are listening and Polish Americans across this country and they are helped at this very, very weighty moment to be healed by your words, by the words of Congressman DONNELLY.

Today, we were all a part of that very, very important moment when the congressman from Chicago, Congressman DAN LIPINSKI, who co-chairs the Polish Caucus in the Congress, asked for a moment of silence, and Speaker PELOSI was at the rostrum, and the entire Chamber rose above partisanship. It was just the expression of the American people, as the Ambassador from Poland, Robert Kupiecki, was in the gallery, and we remembered those who'd lost their lives. And we prayed for the strength of Poland today, for the courage of her people to endure.

As we were expressing that respect, I kept thinking to my last trip to Poland, which was last August, and I have traveled there for many, many decades when it was under Communist control, and I remember how the people—how their faces, their eyes, their expressions were. And then in 1989 when the Berlin Wall came down, traveling to Poland and seeing this moment of possibility and the anxiousness at that particular period, and then to travel there last August and to see a new generation of Poland. I get pretty emotional thinking about it.

And to see their eyes, the eyes of the young people who are going to be the leaders of the 21st century and they have been raised in a free country for the first time in over a century. And they have the same possibility as the Poles who right after World War I attempted to build a free country, and then it was taken away from them by Nazi and Soviet aggression. So this is really the first generation.

And to see in 20 years the look of hope in those young people's eyes, I shall never forget it. And it told me that the world had progressed and that Poland had progressed and her deepest-held dreams lived in these young people.

So I wanted to put that on the record tonight and also to mention that many, many Members, certainly the Speaker, the Vice President, Secretary of State, Members of our House, like Congressman QUIGLEY, have worked their way to the Polish Embassy to sign the book of mourning that is at the Embassy for interested members and citizens.

The Polish Embassy is overwhelmed with the outpouring of support and friendship of the American people. The street, 16th Street, just north of Dupont Circle, where the Embassy is located, the whole entire front is full of flowers and candles. Americans were walking by. They were attempting to gain entry to the Embassy to express their sorrow. It was quite a powerful sight to behold.

And I know that there are memorials being held around the globe as well. President Obama has announced he will be leading America's delegation to Poland this weekend for the President's funeral. So the outpouring of love from the American people to the Polish people is a bond that will only be strengthened by this great tragedy.

I wanted to also place on the RECORD, if I could, this evening a poem by Andrzej Wajda, who is a Polish filmmaker, about Katyn where the past generation and this generation of Poles has now paid the greatest price:

"There are no Great Walls there at Katyn,

No towers leaning or not leaning,

Declaring some king's success

Or mocking another's failure,

No gleaming cathedral where

You can pray for forgiveness

Or watch the cycle of shadows play

Through the coolness of the day,

And soon not even the names

Of those who died will be remembered,

Names like Skrzypinski, Chmura,

Or Anthony Milczarek.

Their harsh voices and tearing courage

Are already lost in the wind,

But their true monuments

Will always be there, in the dust

And the gray ashes and the mounds

Settling over the bodies over which

No prayers were ever whispered,

No tears shed by a grieving mother

Or a trembling sister."

This team of Polish leaders journeyed to Katyn, Russia, in order to begin to unravel this story of where history lived that for seven decades, three-quarters of a century, was denied. And I have to say that the Prime Minister of Russia, Vladimir Putin, is to be commended royally for his attention to what happened and, in addition to that, for having the courage to look history in the eye and not be afraid of it and to know that we are living in a new millennium and to allow the film Katyn by Andrzej Wajda to be shown on television in Russia before the crash and then after.

□ 1915

And so to make history right, and the President of Russia, Mr. Medvedev, to be able to move on and to work together with the deep heritage that our peoples all have together and to use our power to make the world a better place, what a moment for all of us to be living, and an opportunity, a set of opportunities that should not be lost.

And I would like to yield back to my friend from Indiana (Mr. DONNELLY).

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. In listening to your comments, what continues as a theme throughout all of this is the unbreakable spirit of freedom of the Polish nation; that, despite some of the most harsh treatment from other countries, some of the most difficult challenges ever faced, their strength, their courage, their determination changed the face of the world.

I'm sure my good friend from Ohio remembers that day when a new Pope was chosen many years ago, and out on to the balcony came Pope John Paul II. And I remember the announcer saying, This Pope is from Poland. And when that happened, the whole world changed.

And it wasn't too long after that that a strike at a shipyard in Gdansk again changed the face of the world, and that the courage of those workers and the strength of their belief in freedom and the Pope's keeping an eye on them, so to speak, helped change the entire world again; where you heard so many times that the Iron Curtain could never be broken, that the Soviet Union would never change, that Poland was a smaller nation than the Soviet Union and would never have a chance to see their spirit of democracy bloom and flower.

But the determination of the people of that country could not be denied, and their example led to the Berlin Wall coming down, led to country after country getting their own freedom and their own democracy. And it was all started in a shipyard in Gdansk by the Polish nation who believed in a cause that was right, in a cause that was just, and believed that we are all creatures of God, and God has given us that opportunity to have freedom. And because of that, the whole world changed because of the strength of the people of Poland.

And so tonight, as we stand here in our own beloved Capitol of this Nation we love so much, we want all of our friends of Polish heritage to know and all of our friends who are in Poland to know that we stand together with them, that we are as one, and that they can always count on our being there whenever needed.

Ms. KAPTUR. The gentleman's words are so eloquent. And I am reminded that in the resolution that was passed this afternoon here in the Congress, one of those who lost her life on that plane was Anna Walentynowicz, who's the former dock worker whose firing in 1980 sparked the solidarity strike that ultimately overthrew the Polish communist government, and of course she was killed in the crash as well.

And last August, when I traveled to Poland, one of the cities we visited was Poznan, and what was—there were many, many moments that were memorable, but I can remember standing near the town square and seeing very huge, huge crosses, metal crosses that had rope bonds around them, and underneath it, the years 1956 through the late fifties, through the sixties, through the seventies, all of the strikes and protests inside of communist Poland that ultimately, in 1980 and during the decade of the 1980s, then erupted.

But the courage, the progressive courage, decade after decade after decade, at, obviously, threat to loss of their own life and loss of their own life, the people of Poland trying to build a

solidarity movement to change life in that part of the world was an extraordinary story. It's a story of great heroism. And I think the gentleman reminds us of the price that has been paid by the people of Poland for their liberty.

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. And I think back of all the incredible accomplishments that have occurred because of that desire for freedom, that recognition that each human being is special and that God has given us those rights. And that's why Lech Walesa stood up and said, Enough.

In my own district, on the West side of South Bend, also Saint Adalberts, which is the central—one of the central points of the Polish communities in South Bend, and in Michigan City, Saint Stanislas Kostka, which is another central point where the community today is as strong and as vibrant as ever and has a very heavy heart this week after what has happened, after seeing folks they care so much about be in such a terrible, terrible accident, a terrible loss. And their tremendous pride in their American heritage and their Polish heritage has led those communities to be such bright lights in my State and, I know, in Ohio as well.

Ms. KAPTUR. You know, Congressman DONNELLY, when we think back to Poland's history during World War II, no nation lost a higher percentage of its people. Twenty percent of the population of Poland was eliminated. And the strength that it took to survive that and to endure, history should well note the dismembering of their nation and their ability to prevail and ultimately then, in the fifties and sixties and seventies and eighties, they come from a heritage of great suffering and great triumph.

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. And to a community where Easter is such a special event and to have this happen so shortly after Easter, in Rolling Prairie, a little town just outside of South Bend where there is also another Saint Stanislas Kostka, where Easter is celebrated as something not only very important spiritually, but also to the Polish community as well, to have this happen so shortly after that may have made the pain even more difficult.

But what the people of Poland know is that they have suffered and struggled before, and from each time they deal with struggling and suffering, they come out stronger and they come out as a nation more united every time. And so from this pain, from this sorrow will come comfort and the understanding and knowledge of all the friends that the nation of Poland has throughout the world. And that, we hope, can be of some comfort.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank you for your words and compassion; and, in a similar vein, wish to place in the RECORD two letters that have been issued relating to this tragedy. One is from Stefan Wisniowski, who is the President of the Kresy-Siberia Foundation. This particular foundation is trying to vir-

tually tell the history of the millions of Poles who were relocated during World War II from the eastern half of Poland and sent to concentration camps and labor camps in Siberia and points east as the Red Army assumed control of the eastern half of Poland. There were lives, hundreds of thousands upon thousands of lives lost.

And he writes the following: What has happened is a black day for Poland and for her children around the world, including all of us at the Kresy-Siberia Foundation who are working for the remembrance and recognition of our collective history.

Those who perished were all leaders in the nation's quest for remembrance and identity. Many were close friends of the Kresy-Siberia Foundation, and among those we have lost are two of the honorary patrons of the Kresy-Siberia Virtual Museum: Ryszard Kaczorowski, the last Polish President-in-Exile, and Janusz Krupski, Ministry for Veterans and Repressed Peoples.

Our first important backer, Mr. Maciejski, who's President of the Inota Polska, which is the Polish Union Association, who had the courage and vision to be the first major sponsor of our virtual museum and whose organization now hosts our office in Warsaw.

He also says, Janusz Kurtyka, president of the Institute for National Remembrance, who headed one of our foundation's most important partners, Andrzej Przewoznik, who's Secretary overseeing the Council for the Protection of Memory of Struggle and Martyrdom, an important friend and collaborator of the Kresy-Siberia Foundation, and of course he references President Kaczynski and his wife, Maria, who were both aware and very supportive of the foundation's efforts.

And then he recognized the scores of leaders of the Siberian Association, the Katyn Families Association, the Golgotha of the East Foundation, and all our friends and colleagues drawn to the common flame of Katyn and all lost in the flames of the presidential jet crash.

The tragic irony of this circumstance is not lost on us. Like the cream of the Polish nation murdered 70 years ago and who the presidential party was en route to commemorate at Katyn, an entire leadership group of our nation has been lost to us. Literally, the entire chiefs of staff of the Army, Air Force, Navy have all perished, along with scores of parliamentarians, government officials, religious leaders, and historical activists like us.

We Poles will recover, for as a nation we always have, but we have lost a strong core of our most passionate and historically aware patriots. We are in shock and mourning. Our thoughts and prayers are with the nation and with the families of those who lost their loved ones. May Poland and all her children around the world rally in unity at this tragic blow.

And I would hope that the United States of America would take up the

gauntlet and help Poland continue the effort to remember, to restore her archival collections, to try to make and honor those who lost their lives under such horrendous circumstances over 70 years ago, and that the ground that now is sacred because of additional lives lost as well as those in the past has special meaning in the world today, and that we need to remember and we need to account for every lost life. America can help in this cause.

And another letter that was sent from Alex Storozynski, who's president and executive director of the Kosciuszko Foundation based in New York writes:

"Dear friends,

"As we mourn the loss of President Lech and Maria Kaczynski and their talented delegation of leaders, we must make sure that these deaths were not in vain.

"After a coverup, the Katyn Massacre which lasted for decades, today the truth about Katyn was on television and page 1 news around the world.

"As the anthem says, 'Poland has not perished while we are alive.'

"President Kaczynski and his Cabinet presided over a period of prosperity, and today Poland has the 18th largest economy in the world, a free press where people can speak their minds, and a stable democratic system where voters elect their leaders.

"These are great strides made by our fatherland over the past 20 years and we should all be proud. So wherever you are, go visit a Polish Consulate, a Polish church, a Polish club, or a Polish cultural center and share your condolences. But remember to count your blessings as well."

I thought that was a beautiful call to action here in the United States and abroad.

Congressman DONNELLY, please.

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. I just want to thank my good friend from Ohio for letting me be part of this. And to the nation of Poland, our hearts and our sympathy are with you at this very, very difficult time.

Ms. KAPTUR. I thank Congressman DONNELLY for joining us this evening, and Congressman FRANKS from Arizona, Congressman DONNELLY from Indiana, Congresswoman KAPTUR from Ohio. To all of our colleagues from across this country, and certainly from the Polish American Caucus here in the Congress—Congressman LIPINSKI, Congressman DINGELL, Congressman CHRIS MURPHY, Congressman MIKE QUIGLEY of Chicago, Congressman DENNIS KUCINICH of Cleveland, Ohio, Congresswoman MARCIA FUDGE of the same region—all of us are united in our common grief as well as common hope that the future of Poland in this millennium will be very bright, and America stands with you at this very historic moment.

This is a black day for Poland and for her children around the world, including all of us at Kresy-Siberia who are working for the remembrance and recognition of our collective history.

Those who perished today were all leaders in the Nation's quest for remembrance and identity.

Many were close friends of the Kresy-Siberia Foundation, and among those we have lost are:

Two of the Honorary Patrons of the Kresy-Siberia Virtual Museum; Ryszard Kaczorowski, the last Polish President-in-Exile, and Janusz Krupski, Ministry for Veterans and Repressed Persons.

Our first important backer, Maciejski, President of the "Inota Polska" (Polish Union) Association, who had the courage and vision to be the first major sponsor of our virtual museum and whose organization now hosts our office in Warsaw.

Janusz Kurtyka, President of the Institute for National Remembrance, who headed one of our Foundation's most important Partners.

Andrzej Przewonik, Secretary overseeing the Council for the Protection of Memory of Struggle and Martyrdom, an important friend and collaborator of the Kresy-Siberia Foundation.

President Kaczyski and especially Mrs. Kaczyska, who we met in Warsaw last September, who were both aware of and very supportive of Kresy-Siberia.

Scores of leaders of the Siberian Association, the Katyn Families Association, the Golgotha of the East Foundation, and all our friends and colleagues drawn to the common flame of Katyn and all lost in the flames of the presidential jet crash.

The tragic irony of this circumstance is not lost on us.

Like the cream of the Polish nation murdered 70 years ago, and who the Presidential party was en route to commemorate at Katyn, an entire leadership group of our nation has been lost to us. Literally, the entire chiefs of staff of the Army, Air Force, and Navy have all perished. Along with scores of parliamentarians, government officials, religious leaders, and historical activists like us.

We Poles will recover, for as a Nation we always have. But we have lost a strong core of our most passionate and historically aware patriots.

We are in shock and mourning.

Our thoughts and prayers are with the Nation and with the families of those who lost their loved ones.

May Poland and all her children around the world rally in unity at this tragic blow.

STEFAN WISNIEWSKI,
Foundation President, Kresy-Siberia Foundation.

Dear Friends,

As we mourn the loss of President Lech and Maria Kaczynski and their talented delegation of leaders, we must make sure that these deaths were not in vain.

After a cover up of the Katyn Massacre, which lasted for decades, today the truth about Katyn was on television—and page-one news around the world!

As the anthem says, "Poland has not perished while we are alive."

President Kaczynski and his cabinet presided over a period of prosperity, and today Poland has the 18th largest economy in the world, a free press where people can speak their minds, and a stable democratic system where voters elect their leaders.

These are great strides made by our fatherland over the past 20 years and we should all be proud. So wherever you are, go visit a Polish Consulate, a Polish church, club, or cultural center and share your condolences. But remember to count your blessings as well!

All the best,

ALEX STOROZYNSKI,
President & Executive Director,
The Kosciuszko Foundation.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SKELTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LEE of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. BERKLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SUTTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HEINRICH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SMITH of Washington, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SESTAK, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LARSEN of Washington, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TAYLOR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LANGEVIN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. McMAHON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BURTON of Indiana) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, April 21.

Mr. POE of Texas, for 5 minutes, April 21.

Mr. JONES, for 5 minutes, April 21.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Member (at her own request) to revise and extend her re-

marks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1749. An act to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the possession or use of cell phones and similar wireless devices by Federal prisoners, to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Lorraine C. Miller, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.R. 4573. An act to urge the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Directors at the International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and other multilateral development institutions to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to cancel immediately and completely Haiti's debts to such institutions, and for other purposes.

H.R. 4887. An act to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that health coverage provided by the Department of Defense is treated as minimal essential coverage.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, April 15, 2010, at 10 a.m.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to Public Law 111-139, Mr. SPRATT hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 3506, the Eliminate Privacy Notice Confusion Act, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

CBO ESTIMATE OF THE STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 3506, THE ELIMINATE PRIVACY NOTICE CONFUSION ACT, AS INTRODUCED ON JULY 31, 2009, AND AMENDED ON APRIL 13, 2010

By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—													
	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2010–2015	2010–2020
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Note: Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

Pursuant to Public Law 111-139, Mr. SPRATT hereby submits, prior to the

vote on passage, the attached estimate of the costs of H.R. 4994, the Taxpayer

Assistance Act of 2010, as amended, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

CBO ESTIMATE OF THE STATUTORY PAY-AS-YOU-GO EFFECTS FOR H.R. 4994, THE TAXPAYER ASSISTANCE ACT OF 2010, AS PROVIDED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET ON APRIL 14, 2010

By fiscal year, in millions of dollars—

	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2010–2015	2010–2020
	Net Increase or Decrease (–) in the Deficit												
Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Impact	20	–15	–20	–15	–13	–10	–6	–2	2	5	9	–52	–45

Note: Components may not sum to totals because of rounding.

Source: Congressional Budget Office and Joint Committee on Taxation.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,
ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6995. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Ammonium Salts of Fatty Acids (C8-C18 Saturated); Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2008-0652; FRL-8809-6] received March 23, 2010 to the Committee on Agriculture.

6996. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Cloquintocet-mexyl; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0714; FRL-8816-3] received March 23, 2010 to the Committee on Agriculture.

6997. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Clopyralid; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2009-0092; FRL-8814-2] received March 23, 2010 to the Committee on Agriculture.

6998. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter regarding the National Guard and Reserve Equipment Report to the Committee on Armed Services.

6999. A letter from the Executive Director, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2009 Annual Report to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7000. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Energy Conservation Program for Consumer Products: Classifying Products as Covered Products [Docket No.: EE-RM-03-630] (RIN: 1904-AB52) received March 22, 2010 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7001. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Small Electric Motors [Docket No.: EERE-2001-BT-STD-0007] (RIN: 1904-AB70) received April 8, 2010 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7002. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator/Office of Diversion Control, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Electronic Prescriptions for Controlled Substances [Docket No.: DEA-2181] (RIN: 1117-AA61) received April 1, 2010 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7003. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Illinois; NOx Budget Trading Program; Correction [EPA-R05-OAR-2009-0964; FRL-9129-9] received March 23, 2010 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7004. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental

Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Michigan; PSD Regulations [EPA-R05-OAR-2007-1043; FRL-9129-5] received March 23, 2010 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7005. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Texas; Revision to Control Volatile Organic Compound Emissions in the Houston/Galveston/Brazoria 8-Hour Ozone Nonattainment Area [EPA-R06-OAR-2007-0526; FRL-9130-8] received March 23, 2010 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7006. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.622(i), Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations (Atlantic City, New Jersey) [MB Docket No.: 09-231] received March 25, 2010 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7007. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Digital Audio Broadcasting Systems And Their Impact on the Terrestrial Radio Broadcast Service [MD Docket No.: 99-325] received March 25, 2010 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

7008. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's annual report for fiscal year 2009, in accordance with Section 203(a) of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174 to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7009. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's fiscal year 2009 annual report prepared in accordance with Section 203 of the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act), Public Law 107-174 to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7010. A letter from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-40; Small Entity Compliance Guide [Docket FAR 2010-0077, Sequence 2] received March 25, 2010 to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7011. A letter from the Acting Senior Procurement Executive, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2005-40; Introduction [Docket FAR 2010-0076, Sequence 2] received March 25, 2010 to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7012. A letter from the Acting Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2008-027, Federal Awardee Performance and Integrity

Information System [FAC 2005-40; FAR Case 2008-027; Docket 2009-030, Sequence 1] (RIN: 9000-AL38) received March 25, 2010 to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

7013. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Taking of Marine Mammals Incidental to Commercial Fishing Operations; Harbor Porpoise Take Reduction Plan Regulations [Docket No.: 080721862-8864-01] (RIN: 0648-AW51) received March 25, 2010 to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7014. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Non-American Fisheries Act Crab Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Offshore Component in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No.: 09100091344-9056-02] (RIN: 0648-XU62) received March 25, 2010 to the Committee on Natural Resources.

7015. A letter from the Staff Director, Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting notification that the Commission recently appointed members to the Kansas Advisory Committee to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7016. A letter from the Staff Director, Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting notification that the Commission recently appointed members to the District of Columbia Advisory Committee to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7017. A letter from the Staff Director, Commission on Civil Rights, transmitting notification that the Commission recently appointed members to the Pennsylvania Advisory Committee to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7018. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's report on the Tribal-State Road Maintenance Agreements to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7019. A letter from the Regulation Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Medicare Program; Policy and Technical Changes to the Medicare Advantage and the Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit Programs (RIN: 0938-AP77) received April 7, 2010 jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

7020. A letter from the Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's report on the Preliminary Damage Assessment information on FEMA-1872-DR for the State of Arkansas jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Appropriations, and Homeland Security.

7021. A letter from the Administrator, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's report on the Preliminary Damage Assessment information on FEMA-1873-DR for the State of New

Jersey jointly to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Appropriations, and Homeland Security.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Ms. PINGREE of Maine: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1248. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4715) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the National Estuary Program, and for other purposes, waiving a requirement of clause 6(1) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules, and providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (Rept. 111-463). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ANDREWS (for himself, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado, and Mr. HUNTER):

H.R. 5013. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for performance management of the defense acquisition system, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FILNER:

H.R. 5014. A bill to clarify the health care provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that constitutes minimum essential coverage; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. JONES, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LUJÁN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mr. SCHRADER, and Ms. HARMAN):

H.R. 5015. A bill to require a plan for the safe, orderly, and expeditious redeployment of United States Armed Forces from Afghanistan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. KING of New York, and Mr. SMITH of Texas):

H.R. 5016. A bill to prohibit the Secretaries of the Interior and Agriculture from taking action on public lands which impede border security on such lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KANJORSKI (for himself, Mr. HODES, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. HINOJOSA, and Mr. COURTNEY):

H.R. 5017. A bill to ensure the availability of loan guarantees for rural homeowners; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. BEAN (for herself and Mr. CONAWAY):

H.R. 5018. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to direct the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to improve oversight of the single audit process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. CARDOZA):

H.R. 5019. A bill to provide for the establishment of the Home Star Retrofit Rebate Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. WATSON, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. CLARKE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. WATT, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. PIERLUISI, Mr. REYES, Mr. HONDA, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GARAMENDI, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FARR, Mr. CLAY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. STARK, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. FILNER, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California):

H.R. 5020. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to extend the time period for filing petitions to deny, oppositions, and comments in the proceeding relating to the proposed merger of Comcast and NBC Universal; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BISHOP of New York (for himself, Mr. MCMAHON, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. NADLER of New York, and Mr. HARE):

H.R. 5021. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that fees charged for baggage carried into the cabin of an aircraft are subject to the excise tax imposed on transportation of persons by air; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BRALEY of Iowa:

H.R. 5022. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to make grants to 10 institutions of higher education for the expansion of master's degree in physical education programs that emphasize technology and innovative teaching practices; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 5023. A bill to prescribe procedures for effective consultation and coordination by Federal agencies with federally recognized Indian tribes regarding Federal Government activities that impact tribal lands and interests to ensure that meaningful tribal input is an integral part of the Federal decision-making process; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HOLT (for himself and Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York):

H.R. 5024. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Education to award grants to improve access to, sharing of, and use of, education data to improve student outcomes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. KENNEDY:

H.R. 5025. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act and the Social Security Act to extend health information technology assistance eligibility to behavioral health, mental health, and substance abuse professionals and facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts (for himself and Mr. UPTON):

H.R. 5026. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to protect the bulk-power system and electric infrastructure critical to the defense of the United States from cybersecurity and other threats and vulnerabilities; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TONKO (for himself, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. FUDGE, and Ms. RICHARDSON):

H.R. 5027. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to assess the effectiveness and efficiency of administrative review systems to ensure compliance with Federal meal standards; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. HODES:

H.J. Res. 82. A joint resolution proposing the "Doris 'Granny D' Haddock Amendment of 2010" to the Constitution of the United States regarding the authority of Congress and the States to regulate the spending and activities of corporations with regard to political campaigns and campaigns for election for public office; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. DAHLKEMPER (for herself,

Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. SIREN, Mr. VISCLOSKEY, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. HOLT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. FILNER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. CARNEY, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. TONKO, Mr. TANNER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. SCHAUER, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. OWENS, Mr. COSTA, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. OLVER, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. PENCE, Mr. MURPHY of Connecticut, Mr. HALL of New York, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. PIERLUISI, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, Ms. ROGERS of Michigan, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Ms. RICHARDSON):

H. Res. 1246. A resolution expressing sympathy to the people of Poland in the aftermath of the tragic plane crash that killed the country's President, First Lady, and 94 others on April 10, 2010; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LYNCH (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. VAN

HOLLEN, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, and Mr. CHAFFETZ):

H. Res. 1247. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that public servants should be commended for their dedication and continued service to the Nation during Public Service Recognition Week, May 3 through 9, 2010, and throughout the year; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform.

By Mr. BOEHNER:

H. Res. 1249. A resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House; to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct.

By Ms. LEE of California (for herself, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. RICHARDSON, Ms. KILROY, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H. Res. 1250. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of "National STD Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. POE of Texas (for himself and Mr. THORNBERRY):

H. Res. 1251. A resolution recognizing and honoring the United States troops who gave their lives on D-Day at the Battle of Normandy; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. ROONEY:

H. Res. 1252. A resolution commending the political leadership of Northern Ireland on reaching the Hillsborough Agreement on policing and justice; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. WELCH:

H. Res. 1253. A resolution commemorating the 200th anniversary of the birth of Vermont Senator Justin Smith Morrill, who helped create a national system of land-grant colleges; to the Committee on House Administration.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 211: Mr. HILL, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 333: Ms. NORTON, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. MURPHY of New York, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 362: Mr. TIAHRT.
H.R. 537: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.
H.R. 728: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 758: Ms. SHEA-PORTER.
H.R. 855: Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 929: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 933: Mr. KINGSTON.

H.R. 1189: Ms. SUTTON, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Mr. PAULSEN.

H.R. 1191: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 1210: Mr. ARCURI.
H.R. 1310: Mr. HEINRICH.
H.R. 1322: Mr. DOYLE.

H.R. 1362: Mr. WEINER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PITTS, and Mr. KLINE of Minnesota.

H.R. 1520: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.
H.R. 1526: Mr. GUTHRIE.
H.R. 1549: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 1551: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.
H.R. 1557: Mr. TANNER.
H.R. 1616: Mr. CAO.

H.R. 1625: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. CHU, Mr. SIRES, Mr. CARNAHAN, Ms. SHEA-PORTER, and Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 1670: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.
H.R. 1751: Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. BACA, and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 1826: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. SCHAUER.

H.R. 1844: Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 1855: Mr. WELCH.

H.R. 1875: Mr. FILNER and Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 1912: Mr. MAFFEI.

H.R. 1943: Mrs. MALONEY.

H.R. 1995: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 2054: Ms. KILROY.

H.R. 2142: Mr. MATHESON, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MINNICK, and Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2414: Mr. TOWNS and Ms. RICHARDSON.

H.R. 2425: Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 2478: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SULLIVAN, and Mr. BRALEY of Iowa.

H.R. 2480: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

H.R. 2483: Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 2546: Mr. CAMPBELL.

H.R. 2565: Mr. PETRI.

H.R. 2583: Ms. KILROY.

H.R. 2733: Mr. LOESACK and Mrs. MCMORRIS RODGERS.

H.R. 2766: Ms. CLARKE and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H.R. 2807: Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan.

H.R. 2808: Mr. BURTON of Indiana and Mr. DUNCAN.

H.R. 2891: Mr. KAGEN and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.

H.R. 2932: Mr. LYNCH and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 3018: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 3043: Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. MAFFEI, and Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 3116: Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 3131: Mr. CAMPBELL.

H.R. 3189: Mr. FORBES.

H.R. 3243: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H.R. 3315: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.

H.R. 3339: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona.

H.R. 3393: Mr. TANNER, Mr. BRIGHT, Mr. COOPER, Mr. CHANDLER, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 3415: Mr. ROSS, Mr. MARCHANT, and Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 3421: Ms. DeLAURO and Mr. MARCHANT.

H.R. 3464: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. TEAGUE, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, and Mr. ADERHOLT.

H.R. 3487: Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H.R. 3554: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

H.R. 3668: Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. HELLER, Mr. FARR, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. BARTLETT, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. HALL of New York, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PETRI, Mr. CARNAHAN, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. WEINER, and Mr. BERRY.

H.R. 3715: Mr. MAFFEI.

H.R. 3720: Mr. LOESACK.

H.R. 3745: Ms. SPEIER and Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 3787: Mr. ARCURI.

H.R. 3790: Mr. CALVERT, Mr. BRIGHT, Ms. KILROY, and Mr. LUCAS.
H.R. 3799: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 3924: Mr. GRIFFITH, Mr. TERRY, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina.

H.R. 4021: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 4090: Mr. RAHALL and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 4094: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 4109: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 4123: Ms. SUTTON.

H.R. 4144: Mr. McDERMOTT.

H.R. 4148: Ms. RICHARDSON.

H.R. 4178: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 4196: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 4199: Mr. COURTNEY.

H.R. 4255: Mr. SCHRADER and Ms. SUTTON.

H.R. 4296: Mr. LYNCH and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 4300: Mr. KRATOVIL.

H.R. 4321: Mr. LANGEVIN.

H.R. 4351: Mr. CARNEY.

H.R. 4399: Mr. ACKERMAN.

H.R. 4402: Ms. WOOLSEY and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H.R. 4405: Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. HONDA, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. ELLISON.

H.R. 4410: Mr. McCOTTER, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. HILL, and Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 4426: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 4443: Mr. WEINER.

H.R. 4494: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 4530: Mr. OBERSTAR and Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 4544: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Mr. WILSON of Ohio.

H.R. 4594: Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. KISSELL, and Mr. HOLT.

H.R. 4599: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H.R. 4607: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 4669: Mr. GUTIERREZ and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 4671: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H.R. 4676: Mr. SKELTON and Mr. KLEIN of Florida.

H.R. 4684: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mrs. MYRICK, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. UPTON, Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, and Mr. HOLDEN.

H.R. 4690: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California and Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 4692: Mr. YARMUTH and Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 4711: Mr. HEINRICH.

H.R. 4720: Mr. HALL of New York.

H.R. 4722: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. ELLISON, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 4733: Mr. PETERS and Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H.R. 4745: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. WATT, and Ms. RICHARDSON.

H.R. 4746: Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. LATTA, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PAUL, Mr. POE of Texas, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

Poe of Texas, and Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 4749: Mr. HODES.

H.R. 4752: Mr. LYNCH and Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.

H.R. 4753: Mr. ROSS.

H.R. 4764: Mr. FILNER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 4785: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, and Ms. MARKEY of Colorado.

H.R. 4788: Mr. ARCURI, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. BOCCIERI, Mr. ELLISON, Mr. CARNEY, and Mr. HALL of New York.

H.R. 4790: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HODES, Mr. LYNCH, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. OLIVER, Mr. SARBANES, and Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 4797: Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia.

H.R. 4812: Mr. HEINRICH, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MAFFEI, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. DELAHUNT, and Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 4818: Mr. RUSH.

H.R. 4819: Mr. HARE and Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas.

H.R. 4830: Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H.R. 4835: Mr. GUTHRIE.

H.R. 4844: Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. CAO, and Mr. SCALISE.

H.R. 4850: Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. McCOTTER, Mr. SPACE, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. UPTON, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. MAFFEI, Mr. NUNES, Mr. PASCRELL, and Ms. BERKLEY.

H.R. 4856: Mr. ROSS, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 4862: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
 H.R. 4868: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. NADLER of New York.
 H.R. 4870: Mr. ISRAEL.
 H.R. 4879: Mr. KIRK, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. STARK, Mr. PETERS, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
 H.R. 4898: Mr. CAO and Mr. FILNER.
 H.R. 4903: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
 H.R. 4904: Mr. LATTI and Mr. MORAN of Kansas.
 H.R. 4910: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, and Mr. LAMBORN.
 H.R. 4921: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
 H.R. 4923: Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. MARSHALL, and Ms. SUTTON.
 H.R. 4925: Ms. BERKLEY and Ms. KILROY.
 H.R. 4947: Mr. MARSHALL and Mr. ROSS.
 H.R. 4956: Mr. WOLF.
 H.R. 4960: Mr. DENT and Mr. LANCE.
 H.R. 4966: Mr. BILBRAY.
 H.R. 4972: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
 H.R. 4981: Mrs. BACHMANN and Mr. SKELTON.
 H.R. 4985: Mr. SESSIONS and Mr. ROHRABACHER.
 H.R. 4995: Mr. TIAHRT.
 H.R. 4996: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, and Mr. HERGER.
 H.R. 5000: Mr. ROTHMAN of New Jersey and Mr. CLAY.
 H.R. 5006: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.
 H.J. Res. 81: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CARSON of Indiana, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CLAY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. EDWARDS of Maryland, Ms. FUDGE, Ms. JACKSON LEE of Texas, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Ms. MOORE of Wis-

consin, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. RUSH, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. SERRANO.
 H. Con. Res. 4: Mr. PETERSON.
 H. Con. Res. 88: Mr. FORBES.
 H. Con. Res. 92: Mr. WU, Mr. STARK, and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
 H. Con. Res. 98: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. WATSON, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. HINCHAY.
 H. Con. Res. 137: Mr. MEEKS of New York and Ms. CLARKE.
 H. Con. Res. 233: Mr. KUCINICH.
 H. Con. Res. 255: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. REYES, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BACA, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. SCHAUER, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. TONKO.
 H. Res. 111: Ms. FALLIN, Mr. HILL, and Mr. SULLIVAN.
 H. Res. 407: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.
 H. Res. 639: Mr. FORBES.
 H. Res. 886: Mr. GOODLATTE.
 H. Res. 1056: Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. MICHAUD, Mrs. BACHMANN, Mr. FILNER, Mr. INGLIS, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.
 H. Res. 1064: Mr. HOLT, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. CAPUANO, and Ms. RICHARDSON.
 H. Res. 1116: Mr. GINGREY of Georgia, Mr. GRIFFITH, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. PITTS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. SPACE, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. BOUCHER, Ms. DEGETTE, and Mrs. BONO MACK.
 H. Res. 1143: Mr. KIRK, Mr. FILNER, Mr. REICHERT, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
 H. Res. 1158: Mr. ADERHOLT.
 H. Res. 1181: Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H. Res. 1182: Mr. MARKEY of Massachusetts, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. WILSON of Ohio, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. HODES, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. ROSS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. GORDON of Tennessee, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Ms. LEE of California.

H. Res. 1187: Ms. TITUS, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. TONKO, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. HOLT, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. STARK, Mr. OLVER, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Ms. WATERS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. BERRY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. ELLISON, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mrs. LOWEY, and Ms. DEGETTE.

H. Res. 1211: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida and Ms. LEE of California.

H. Res. 1216: Mr. STUPAK and Mr. MCCOTTER.

H. Res. 1240: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 1549: Ms. BERKLEY.

H. Con. Res. 49: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.